

OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

August 17, 2020

Conference Call

Vince Casingal, MD, Chair
Martha Pavlakis, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Committee met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 08/17/20 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Presentation: Align OPTN Policy with U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Guidelines
2. Public Comment Presentation: Lung Continuous Distribution Update
3. Public Comment Presentation: Incorporating COVID-19 Related Organ Failure in Candidate Listings

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Public Comment Presentation: Align OPTN Policy with U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Guidelines

A representative from the OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee (DTAC) presented their Align OPTN Policy and PHS Guidelines proposal to the Committee. The purpose of this proposal is to modify OPTN policy to align with the updated PHS guidelines. Members provided feedback and voted on their sentiment of the proposal.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair spoke in strong support of the proposal and asked why the one-year testing was limited to liver recipients and not expanded to include kidney recipients. The presenter indicated that all recipients will be tested, however the research has shown that livers specifically have had circumstances of late presentation and that is the reason for the policy. The Chair also spoke up in favor of the policy and expressed that the change in nomenclature and consent will be positive changes.

Vote: 7 Strongly Support, 6 Support, 0 Neutral/Abstain, 0 Oppose, 0 Strongly Oppose

Next steps:

The comments received by the Committee will be synthesized into a formal statement that will be submitted for public comment.

2. Public Comment Presentation: Lung Continuous Distribution Update

A representative from the OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee (Lung Committee) presented their update to the Continuous Distribution project to the Committee. Members provided feedback and their thoughts of the project.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair commented in support of the current approach and asked if the feedback had revealed any decreases in priority for certain attributes. A UNOS support staff member with the Lung Committee shared that waiting time is an example of an attribute that the Lung Committee chose not to

incorporate but is one that would likely be used for a kidney allocation system. The staff member noted that the Lung Committee wanted to consider a simpler framework that could be built upon and focus on the most significant attributes first.

A UNOS staff member pointed out how the Kidney Committee will soon be going through a similar process as they start work on a continuous distribution framework for kidney allocation. The Lung Committee staff member pointed out that each organ system will likely use the same large criteria in their continuous distribution systems such as candidate biology, patient access or placement efficiency but each organ system will have different specific attributes that fit into those larger criteria.

Next steps:

The comments shared by the Committee will be passed onto the Lung Committee as feedback on the project.

3. Public Comment Presentation: Incorporating COVID-19 Related Organ Failure in Candidate Listings

A representative from the OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee (Lung Committee) presented their special public comment proposal to the Committee. The purpose of this proposal is to collect data on patients that need a lung transplant due to damage caused by COVID-19.

Summary of discussion:

One member commented in support and shared that it is likely there will be more cases of organ transplant due to COVID-19 in the future. The Chair commented that this issue does not seem to be acute at the moment but that this is likely to be a concern down the road. The Vice Chair agreed with the proposal.

Next steps:

The comments received by the Committee will be synthesized into a formal statement that will be submitted for public comment.

Upcoming Meeting

- September 21, 2020 – Full Committee Call

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alejandro Diez
 - Andrew Weiss
 - Arpita Basu
 - Asif Sharfuddin
 - Beatrice Concepcion
 - Cathi Murphey
 - Dev Desai
 - Elliot Grodstein
 - Erica Simonich
 - Jim Kim
 - Julie Kemink
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Previous McCowan
 - Vincent Casingal
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adriana Martinez
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
 - Jon Miller
 - Katie Audette
 - Nick Salkowski
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Amanda Robinson
 - Ben Wolford
 - Courtney Jett
 - Elizabeth Miller
 - James Alcorn
 - Joel Newman
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Kiana Stewart
 - Lauren Motley
 - Leah Slife
 - Matt Prentice
 - Melissa Lane
 - Olga Kosachevsky
 - Roger Brown
 - Sara Moriarty
 - Scott Castro
 - Tina Rhoades
 - Nicole Benjamin
- **Other Attendees**
 - Ricardo La Hoz