

**OPTN Operations and Safety Committee
Meeting Summary
August 27, 2020
Conference Call**

**Christopher Curran, CPTC, CTBS, CTOP, Chair
Alden Doyle, MD, MPH, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Operations and Safety Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 08/27/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Presentation: Update on the Continuous Distribution of Organs Project
2. Public Comment Presentation: Incorporating COVID-19 Related Organ Failure in Candidate Listings
3. Public Comment Presentation: COVID-19 Emergency Policies and Data Collection
4. Workgroup Updates

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

1. Public Comment Presentation: Update on the Continuous Distribution of Organs Project

The Lung Committee gave an update on the progress to date for the Continuous Distribution of Organs project. The Lung Committee is requesting feedback in order to form a future policy proposal.

Summary of discussion:

The Continuous Distribution of Organs project seeks to dissolve hard boundaries that create inequities. The project is considering multiple patient attributes which will lend to a composite allocation score instead of categories by sequence.

A member suggested considering the complexity of travel as a way to analyze the failure aspect of placement efficiency. The Lung Committee member agreed with that suggestion and responded that currently they have looked at mode and cost of travel as well as true travel distance.

The Chair expressed support for travel efficiency attributes being considered in the project. A member stated that variability in cost needs to be considered because programs should not be disadvantaged based on who provides their travel accommodations. The Lung Committee member stated they have discussed cost variability but are limited since cost is not routinely collected.

Another member asked if the Lung Committee has looked at other organs' travel efficiencies. The Lung Committee member stated that they looked at kidney data, but the data is center dependent and does not allow for a global perspective.

There were no additional comments or questions.

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

The Lung Committee updated the Committee on a new proposal that seeks to add the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) related organ failure options in candidate listings. The purpose of this proposal is to better track candidates listed due to COVID-19.

Summary of discussion:

The proposed diagnoses are “COVID-19: Pulmonary fibrosis” and “COVID-19: Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome”. The proposal is expected to be released soon for a special public comment period ending October 1, 2020. The Lung Committee is requesting feedback on whether COVID-19 data should be collected on other organs besides lungs.

The Chair asked if these data could be made retroactive in order to update records of candidates who have already undergone transplants due to COVID-19. The Lung Committee member will ask to see if this is possible from an IT stand-point.

A member suggested that this option be added to the transplant recipient follow-up (TRF) forms for all organs. The Lung Committee member asked if the option should collect COVID-19 as reason for transplant or any previous infection of COVID-19. The member responded that both could be considered.

There were no additional comments or questions.

3. Public Comment Presentation: COVID-19 Emergency Policies and Data Collection

The Committee was presented emergency actions the Executive Committee enacted in response to COVID-19.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair stated that COVID-19 infectious disease testing should remain in DonorNet[®], but it should not be a mandatory field because it could stifle the allocation process. Members agreed. Additionally, the Chair believed the Executive Committee’s actions were appropriate.

A member asked if the data collects how the samples for COVID-19 testing were collected. The Chair responded that the data tracks specimen type, test method, and result as well as a comment field. The member asked if there was a way to capture donors who were previously infected with COVID-19. The Chair responded that organ procurement organizations (OPOs) are discussing this and are aware that there have been some organs donated from patients who have recovered from COVID-19. The Chair agreed that tracking this data is important.

There were no additional comments or questions. Members were called to a vote on their sentiment of the proposal.

Public Comment Sentiment Vote:

Strongly Support- 42% (5), Support – 58% (7), Neutral/Abstain – 0% (0), Oppose – 0% (0), Strongly Oppose 0% (0)

Next Steps:

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

4. Workgroup Updates

Broader Distribution Data Collection Workgroup

The Workgroup Chair reported that the first meeting was held on August 18, 2020. The Workgroup discussed the project history as well as the project approach. The project will be co-sponsored with the Data Advisory Committee (DAC). The next steps include compiling a list of data elements and evaluation.

A member asked if there are DAC members on the Workgroup. Staff responded that there is representation from DAC, organ-specific committees, and transplant coordinators. The Chair asked if there was collaboration with the group in UNOS Labs that is working on a project with OPOs and transportation data collection. Staff affirmed that group is included on Workgroup meetings.

Organ Packaging Workgroup

The Workgroup Chair shared that the previous meeting included a review of various organ packaging techniques by a subject matter expert (SME). The Workgroup also reviewed current data. The next Workgroup meeting will include a presentation from a SME who will discuss thermodynamics and cryobiology as contributing factors. The Workgroup Chair requested the Committee members to ask for their OPO's packaging protocols for the Workgroup to review.

There were no questions or comments. The meeting adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 24, 2020 (teleconference)
- October 20, 2020 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alden Doyle
 - Angela Bullard
 - Alan Koffron
 - Audrey Kleet
 - Christopher Curran
 - Dominic Adorno
 - Gregory Abrahamian
 - Joanne Oxman
 - Kim Koontz
 - Luis Mayen
 - Melinda Locklear
 - Melissa Parente
 - Michael Marvin
 - Rich Rothweiler
 - Susan Stockemer
 - Susan Weese
 - Vandana Khungar
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alice Toll
 - Chelsea Haynes
 - James Alcorn
 - Joann White
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Katrina Gauntt
 - Kristine Althaus
 - Lauren Motley
 - Leah Slife
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Nicole Benjamin
 - Peter Sokol
 - Sara Rose Wells
- **Other Attendees**
 - Erika Lease
 - Karl Schillinger