

## **OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**October 21, 2020**

**Conference Call**

**Sharon Klarman, RN-BC, BSN, CCTC**

**Stacy McKean, RN**

### **Introduction**

The Transplant Coordinators Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 10/21/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Policy Oversight Committee Update
2. Temporarily Inactive Codes Project Update
3. Vice Chair Nomination and Selection Process
4. COVID-19 Experiences Open Forum

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

#### **1. Policy Oversight Committee Update**

TCC Vice Chair presented on the current work of the Policy Oversight Committee and TCC member participation in projects.

##### Data summary:

Slides attached.

##### Summary of discussion:

One committee member asked if there was any update on the "data lock" proposal for OPTN data collection instruments. UNOS staff explained that the implementation plan is set for 90 days after the expiration of the Executive Committee emergency COVID-19 actions.

One committee member asked about the status of the POC-sponsored provisional yes workgroup. The Vice Chair explained that it seemed like the recommendations would be in line with expansion of the offer filters pilot project. Committee members whose teams are currently using the offer filters pilot are asked to please provide feedback to the Vice Chair.

#### **2. Temporarily Inactive Codes Project Update**

TCC Chair presented on the current status of the TCC temporarily inactive codes project and its workgroup recommendations.

##### Data summary:

Slides attached.

##### Summary of discussion:

TCC members commented that more granular reasons that patients are unable to access transplant at a certain time will provide information on barriers to transplant. In addition, it will provide information

that helps transplant programs determine which patients require more immediate follow-up and will more quickly be able to be re-activated.

One member commented that patients who are inactivated have an increased waiting list mortality and on average take twice as long to transplant.

One member commented that for her pediatric kidney program, they frequently list patients as soon as possible even if all transplant-specific testing hasn't been completed yet. She also commented that peritonitis from dialysis can create non-ideal conditions for transplant and frequently results in temporary inactivation for status code 7.

Another member commented that for liver specifically, hepatocellular carcinoma radioembolization requires a two-week window of inactivation where a patient cannot be actively transplanted, and that there should be a distinction between transplant and non-transplant related medical reasons for inactivation.

Next steps:

The Chair and liaison will take the feedback to the workgroup.

**3. Vice Chair Nomination and Selection Process**

UNOS point of contact presented on the new vice chair nomination and selection process.

Data summary:

Slides attached.

Summary of discussion:

Committee members had no questions or concerns.

Next steps:

Members who are interested in the Vice Chair position will submit their volunteer interest form for consideration by the committee.

**4. COVID-19 Experiences Open Forum**

TCC Chair opened the floor to committee member discussion on their current experiences with COVID at their transplant programs.

Summary of discussion:

Members made the following observations based on their own experiences.

- Transplant programs have very different expectations in terms of COVID workup required for deceased donors, in terms of timing, samples, and test types
- A lot of programs are favoring local recovery more strongly than before, and are increasing communications with local surgeons and OPOs
- There seems to be a higher proportion of younger donors being recovered
- Programs are experiencing unanticipated barriers with the increased utilization of telehealth, especially with rural and lower socioeconomic status patients
- Multiple members reported problems with prolonged COVID-positive candidates who received organ offers but the transplant team was uncomfortable accepting an offer for

- One committee member suggested a collaborative committee site for hospital protocols and algorithms stemming from COVID, so long as hospitals are okay with them sharing the information
- A few members brought up the increased infectious disease precautions and the hope for lower flu rates this year

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- November 18, 2020, 2 PM EST, Teleconference
- December 16, 2020, 2 PM EST, Teleconference
- January 20, 2021, 2 PM EST, Teleconference

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Alexandria Dillard
  - Angele Lacks
  - Brenda Durand
  - Donna Campbell
  - Hannah Murry
  - Jill Campbell
  - Lisa Gallagher
  - Melissa Walker
  - Natalie Blackwell
  - Sergio Manzano
  - Sharon Klarman
  - Stacey Lerret
  - Stacy McKean
  - Susie Ditsworth
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Raelene Skerda
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Courtney Jett
  - Ross Walton
- **Other Attendees**
  - Randee Bloom