

**OPTN Data Advisory Committee  
Refusal Codes & Late Turndowns Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
November 19, 2020  
Conference Call**

## **Introduction**

The Refusal Codes & Late Turndowns Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 11/19/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Discussion: Refusal Codes

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

### **1. Discussion: Refusal Codes**

The Workgroup reviewed and discussed current and proposed refusal codes.

#### Summary of discussion:

#### *Logistics Category*

Workgroup members discussed including a code that describes organ procurement organization (OPO) and hospital time constraints. This refusal code would be used in scenarios where the transplant hospital, donor hospital, or OPO provides a window of time that is unable to be met.

Another time constraint discussed was concerning requests from the donor family. This code would be used when the procurement timeline requested by the donor family is unable to be met. The Workgroup agreed to the addition of the following codes to describe time constraints:

- *Resource time constraint*
- *Donor family time constraint*

The members discussed the proposed refusal codes: *Recovery team unavailable* and *transplant team or facility unavailable*

To avoid the negative connotation around the word "unavailable" members agreed to change the verbiage of these codes to read:

- *Recovery team availability*
- *Transplant team or facility availability*

The members did not have any objections to the proposed refusal code *transportation not available*. This refusal code would be used in time of inclement weather and when no transportation is available. A member commented that this may assist in assessing the impact of removing donor service areas (DSAs).

#### *Organ Specific Reasons Category*

Current refusal code: *Distance to travel or ship*

Proposed refusal code: *Actual or projected cold ischemic time too high*

- Members agreed with the proposed refusal code.

- A member noted that *distance to travel or ship* is a code commonly used in Puerto Rico.

Current refusal code: *Organ anatomical damage or defect*

- Members agreed to keep this code the same but categorize it under *Organ Specific Reasons*.

Current refusal codes: *Organ preservation* and *organ-specific donor issue*

- Members agreed to replace these codes with the following proposed refusal codes under the category of *Organ Specific Reasons*:
  - Organ biopsy results unsatisfactory
  - Organ preservation (pumping issue, not pumped, etc.)
  - Organ biopsy not available
  - Organ specific test results not available
  - Actual or projected cold ischemic time too high
  - Warm ischemic recovery time too high

#### *COVID-19 Related Reasons*

The Workgroup discussed adding the COVID-19 related codes to the *Other or Disease Transmission* category. The members raised concern about the COVID-19 specific codes not being applicable in the future and suggested adding more general codes that could apply to future unforeseen issues. The member considered broader refusal codes that could be used when refusals are attributed to emergency situations such as pandemics or natural disasters. The Workgroup will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

#### Next steps:

The Workgroup will continue discussions regarding proposed refusal codes and identification of gaps.

#### **Upcoming Meeting**

- December 17, 2020

## Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
  - David Marshman
  - Erica Seasor
  - Farhan Zafar
  - Jennifer Muriett
  - JoAnn Morey
  - Kristine Browning
  - Lauren Kearns
  - Linda Cendales
  - Sumit Mohan
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Adriana Martinez
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Bertram Kasiske
  - Nick Salkowski
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Adel Husayni
  - Kim Uccellini
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Matt Prentice
  - Melissa Lane
  - Nicole Benjamin
  - Peter Sokol
  - Robert Hunter
  - Roger Brown
  - Sarah Konigsburg
  - Sarah Taranto