

OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee

Meeting Summary

November 19, 2020

Conference Call

Barry Friedman, BSN, Chair
Pramod Bonde, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 11/19/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. POC Meeting: Guidance Document Approval
2. Next Steps: Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Program with Canada

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

1. POC Meeting: Guidance Document Approval

The Committee reviewed the following items in regards to the Non-Citizen/Non-Resident (NCNR) Guidance Document:

- Goals of the Guidance Document
- Educational Components included in the Guidance Document
- Supporting Data
- Purpose of Guidance Document

Summary of discussion:

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussion:

Supporting Data

A member inquired if there is data on deceased donor recipient follow-up compliance. UNOS staff mentioned that this data may already be in the annual report, but UNOS research staff could compile the data if it's not.

A member inquired whether UNOS collects data on donors who are NCNR. UNOS staff explained that there is a small number of "foreign donors" that typically come from Canada, but data isn't collected on them. UNOS staff also mentioned that they weren't sure if data is collected on living donors that come from other countries.

A member inquired if data is collected, regarding the country of origin, on NCNR recipients that come to U.S. with their own donor. UNOS staff mentioned that they will check if this data is collected and follow-up with the Committee.

Purpose of Guidance Document

A member stated that once the Committee has the deceased donor data it should also be included in the slides for the upcoming Policy Oversight Committee (POC) meeting.

Next Steps:

The Committee will present this project to the POC for project approval on December 9th and will schedule to present to the Executive Committee in January 2021.

2. Next Steps: Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Program with Canada

The Committee discussed this project idea and reviewed the following feedback provided by UNOS staff:

- Currently, OPTN policy requires members to only transplant living donor kidneys that have been recovered by an OPTN member. Only hospitals in the US can be members of the OPTN, so this will require creating an exception for non-members from other countries
- Creating this exception would require a definition of what makes those hospitals qualified and safe.
- This may need to be a two-step project and, first, start with straight living donor donations instead of paired

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested that the best way to make sure non-member hospitals or surgeons are qualified and safe would be to make sure they are affiliated with their own country's transplant network and that should be acceptable. This would be more efficient than creating guidelines for individual hospitals.

UNOS staff inquired whether all countries have membership requirements for their transplantation network. A member explained that most countries have regulations and government oversight since organs are a rare resource and transplantation has significant cost implications. The member continued by stated that most governments require individual hospitals and surgeons/transplant professionals affiliated with transplant centers to be members of their transplantation network.

A member inquired whether there would be a time limit on organ recovery and shipping that would impact the countries that the U.S. can share organs with. The member suggested thinking about what the best timing is for each organ when creating a broad exception for other countries.

A member mentioned that the U.S. already exchanges deceased donor organs with Canada, so this probably doesn't apply to this. The member explained that Canada has a very extensive paired donation program through the Canadian Blood Services (CBS), who coordinates and manages the paired kidney list. The member, suggested that the Committee should contact them to see if they're interested.

A member emphasized that another issue to keep in mind is how living donors are handled, that there is no coercion, and everyone is following the same international agreements. For example, countries signed the Declaration of Istanbul which required there be no coercion or monetary rewards for organs and there are over 100 countries that signed, including the U.S.

A HRSA representative suggested it might be helpful for the Committee to have an overview from the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). Approximately 30% of their products involve either transportation to other countries or transportation of products from other countries to the U.S. for bone marrow transplants. NMDP has solved a lot of their regulatory and logistic hurdles and may be able to present in a fairly short period of time.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will reach out to members in order to gauge their interest in participating on the Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup and will ask for volunteers from the Kidney and Histocompatibility Committee as well.

Upcoming Meeting

- December 17, 2020

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Pramod Bonde
 - Howard Nathan
 - Prakash Rao
 - Samy Riad
 - Sylvia Gonzalez
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Rebecca Brookman
 - Amber Wilk
 - Matt Prentice
 - Peter Sokol
 - Robert Hunter
 - Victor Melendez