

**OPTN Living Donor Committee
Meeting Summary
December 9, 2020
Conference Call**

**Heather Hunt, JD, Chair
Titte Srinivas, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Living Donor Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 12/09/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Living Donor Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Proposal Update
2. Regional Review Project
3. Maintenance Dialysis 6-Month Monitoring Report
4. New Project Planning

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

1. Living Donor Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Proposal Update

The Committee's proposal, *Modify Living Donation Policy to Include Living VCA Donors*, was removed from the OPTN Board of Director's December agenda.

Summary of discussion:

The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) raised concerns about the language in the updated definition of VCA. The Committee's proposal referenced this VCA definition, and therefore was removed from the OPTN Board of Director's meeting agenda. The VCA Committee is working to update the definition's language. The Committee will ensure proposed language is in alignment with any updates to the definition.

The Committee provided feedback to HRSA requesting more timely reviews on public comment proposals. The Committee agreed that more timely reviews will allow the Committee to address concerns adequately while allowing the proposals to move forward in a timely manner.

Next steps:

VCA Committee's proposed definition updates will go to the Executive Committee for approval. The Committee's proposal is expected to go the Board of Directors for approval in early 2021.

2. Regional Review Project

The Committee was briefed on the status of the OPTN Regional Review project. The OPTN Regional Review is evaluating the structure, processes, performance, and effectiveness of OPTN Regions, based on a directive from HRSA.

Summary of discussion:

During the Summer 2020 Public Comment cycle, the community had the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the OPTN regional structure. Community feedback cited the OPTN regional structure as effective and advantageous for building relationships. Community feedback also stated the OPTN

regional structure is ineffective, outdated, and has negative effects in regards to broader sharing efforts. Community feedback highlighted the need for equal representation of transplant programs and organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in each region.

A vendor will be hired to analyze potential restructuring options further. The hired vendor will start their research in early January. Based on work from the vendor and feedback from the community, the proposed regional restructuring plan will go out for Winter 2021 Public Comment cycle. Based on that Public Comment period, the plan will be slated for implementation at the beginning of 2022.

The Committee was informed that the Patient Affairs Committee requested to collaborate with the Living Donor Committee to provide feedback regarding the regional review project.

A member asked if the regional review will consider collaboration of OPOs within regions. Staff responded that some community feedback suggested having the same number of transplant hospitals and OPOs per area, and that the vendor will analyze the potential of this suggestion.

3. Maintenance Dialysis 6-Month Monitoring Report

The Committee was provided an update on maintenance dialysis monitoring. This is a 6-month report post implementation of the Committee's policy proposal, *Clarifications on reporting maintenance dialysis*.

Data summary:

To assess the impact of the policy clarification, the following metrics were analyzed by pre-policy era, post-policy COVID-19 shutdown era, and post-policy COVID-19 stabilization era:

- Number of living donor events, overall and by event type
- Number of percentage of kidney living donor follow-up (LDF) forms with dialysis indicated
- Number of member questions related to the interpretation of the dialysis definition

Since January 2007, eleven living donor events have been reported for a living kidney donor on dialysis or waitlisted within two years after donation. Dialysis has been indicated on a total of five kidney LDF forms since the dialysis question was added to the LDF in October 1999. Additionally, UNOS did not receive any questions from OPTN members related to the interpretation of the dialysis definition for living donor event reporting any of the policy eras examined. Current data are insufficient to assess the impact of these policy clarifications.

Summary of discussion:

There were no questions or comments.

4. New Project Planning

The Committee discussed their new project: *Evaluate Exclusion Criteria in Living Donation Policy and Prior Living Donor Wait List Priority*.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee agreed to form a Subcommittee to review research and policy related to exclusion criteria in living donation. The Subcommittee's recommendation will determine the Committee's next steps for this project.

A member stated that therapeutic donation should be discussed during conversations about exclusion criteria, specifically related to cancer. Another member suggested that the Committee receive an update on how often therapeutic donation has been utilized since added to policy.

Next steps:

The Committee will identify Subcommittee members and schedule meetings. The Committee will discuss the project regarding *Prior Living Donor Wait List Priority* at their next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

- January 13, 2020 (teleconference)
- February 10, 2020 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Aneesha Shetty
 - Angie Nishio
 - Carol Hay
 - Carolyn Light
 - Heather Hunt
 - Jessica Spiers
 - Mark Payson
 - Mary Beth Stephens
 - Nahel Elias
 - Pooja Singh
 - Randy Schaffer
 - Roberto Hernandez
 - Stevan Gonzalez
 - Vineeta Kumar
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bertram Kasiske
 - Krista Lentine
 - Michael Conboy
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Julia Chipko
 - Kerrie Masten
 - Leah Slife
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Matt Prentice
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Michelle Rabold
 - Nicole Benjamin
 - Peter Sokol
 - Sarah Booker
 - Tina Rhoades