

**OPTN Patient Affairs Committee  
Meeting Summary  
December 15, 2020  
Conference Call**

**Darnell Waun, R.N., M.S.N., Chair  
Garret Erdle, M.B.A., Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Patient Affairs Committee (PAC) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 12/15/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Board of Directors Meeting Report
2. Continuous Distribution Update and Discussion
3. Policy Oversight Committee Update
4. Cross Committee Work Group Updates

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

### **1. Board of Directors Meeting Report**

The PAC was updated on the Board of Director's recent meeting.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Board of Director's passed all proposals from the Summer 2020 Public Comment cycle. The *Modify Living Donation Policy to Include Living Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Donors*, has not yet been voted on by the Board of Directors due to concerns raised by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) about the updated definition of VCA. Once discussions surrounding the definition of VCA are concluded, the policy will be reviewed to ensure proposed language is in alignment with any definition updates, and the Board of Directors will vote.

There were no questions or comments.

### **2. Continuous Distribution Update and Discussion**

The PAC was updated on the Continuous Distribution effort.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member stated that pediatric priority and post-transplant survival are attributes that have very similar concepts. Staff responded that most of the attributes are closely related, but there are legal and regulatory frameworks which require certain separations.

Another member asked for more information regarding prior living lung donors. Staff responded that there is a small number of prior living lung donors. Staff added that current kidney policy prioritizes access for any prior living donor, not exclusively prior living kidney donors. Staff stated that the Lung Transplantation Committee is continuing discussions around this topic regarding if prior living donor prioritization should be organ specific or all inclusive.

A member asked how the Continuous Distribution effort is being marketed to individuals that are not part of the OPTN or official transplant organizations. Staff responded there has been an effort to

distribute educational material as broadly as possible. Staff added that PAC, in addition with the Kidney Transplantation Committee and Pancreas Transplantation Committee, could help expand the network.

The Chair asked if the efforts by the Lung Transplantation Committee will be able to be applied to other organs. Staff responded that they have learned a lot from this process and have room for improvement. Staff added that while the attributes will stay the same for each organ, the way in which the attributes are measured and prioritized will likely vary across organs.

Another member asked how the prioritization by the Lung Transplantation Committee compares to the prioritization by the Kidney Transplantation Committee. Staff responded that they have not yet performed an analysis, but an outside firm has been hired to perform a revealed preference analysis.

The Chair asked about the timeline for modeling the proposed prioritizations. Staff responded that the first round of modeling will be available in February. Then the Lung Transplantation Committee will refine and submit a second modeling request, which will return by end of June. The Lung Transplantation Committee will vote on a proposal before July 1 in order to release a proposal for Summer 2021 Public Comment cycle.

There were no additional questions or comments.

### **3. Policy Oversight Committee Update**

The PAC was updated on recent discussions by the Policy Oversight Committee (POC).

#### Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair discussed the following projects:

- Data Advisory Committee's Refusal Codes and Late Turndowns project
- Organ Procurement Organizations Committee's Multi-Organ Allocation project
- Organ Procurement Organizations Committee's Technology Tools project

There were no questions or comments.

### **4. Cross Committee Work Group Updates**

PAC members provided updates regarding their cross committee involvement.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member asked about the next steps for the Multi-Organ Allocation project. Another member responded that creating a framework for eligibility criteria appears to be the initial focus of workgroup discussions.

There were no additional questions or comments.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- January 19, 2021 (teleconference)
- February 18, 2021 (virtual "in-person" meeting)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Anita Patel
  - Christopher Yanakos
  - Darnell Waun
  - David Skinner
  - Diego Acero
  - Earl Lovell
  - Eric Tanis
  - Garrett Erdle
  - James Sharrock
  - Julie Siegel
  - Kenny Laferriere
  - Molly McCarthy
  - Sarah Koohmaraie
  - Stephanie Little
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Adriana Martinez
  - Jim Bowman
  - Melanie Deal
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Emily Ward
  - James Alcorn
  - Julia Chipko
  - Kayla Temple
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Sara Rose Wells