

OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee

Meeting Summary

December 17, 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 12/17/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Updates on Project Approval: Non-citizen/Non-resident (NCNR) Guidance Document
2. Review of Reported Follow-up Among Non-citizen/Non-resident (NCNR) Deceased Donor Recipients Data
3. Discussion: Outline of Guidance Document
4. Update on Formation of Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup

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

1. Updates on Project Approval: Non-citizen/Non-resident (NCNR) Guidance Document

The Committee reviewed feedback received from US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Summary of discussion:

There were no questions or comments.

Next steps:

The Committee will address HRSA's feedbacks. The project will be presented to the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) on January 8, 2021.

2. Review of Reported Follow-up Among Non-citizen/Non-resident (NCNR) Deceased Donor Recipients Data

The Committee reviewed deceased donor follow-up data.

Data summary:

Deceased donor recipient follow-up compliance rates decrease among each follow-up form for both NCNR and US citizens or residents. However, NCNR follow-up compliance is lower overall than US citizens or residents.

Summary of discussion:

A member expressed concern over the effectiveness of NCNR classification. Staff responded that there are four options on the transplant candidate registration (TCR) form: US Citizen, Non-US Citizen/US Resident, NCNR Travelled to US for reason other than transplant, and NCNR Traveled to US for transplant. Staff added that migrant workers living in the US are marked as US citizens or residents, regardless of their immigration status. The member asked if there is data available to compare living

kidney donation and living liver donation to deceased donation. Staff responded that data is in the yearly report.

The Chair emphasized the purpose of the guidance document is to educate the transplant community on the importance of the citizenship field. Members agreed. Another member added that the guidance document should educate all individuals inputting data.

The Chair requested the volume of forms be added to the graphs for a better understanding. Staff responded they will review the data.

3. Discussion: Outline of Guidance Document

The Committee reviewed an outline for the NCNR guidance document.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair explained that patients who travel for transplant to a US transplant center will most likely have had prior conversations before arrival. The Chair stated that some governments have a medical ambassador that work with local US hospitals while the patient is traveling, typically referred to as medical tourism. The Chair stated that upon an agreement, there is some form of payment which occurs. The Chair stated some patients become sick while traveling which causes them to access US medical treatment. Additionally, some patients knowingly travel while sick because they are aware they will receive treatment via the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act (EMTALA). The Chair emphasized there are a lot of various entry ways to the system.

There were no additional questions or comments.

4. Update on Formation of Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup

The KPD Workgroup is still in the process of being formed.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked for information about initial conversations regarding this workgroup. The Chair responded that initial discussions for forming this workgroup addressed the goal of increasing the number of available organs. The Chair added that discussions are in the exploratory phase. The member expressed concerns over ethical issues regarding global paired exchange, such as financial coercion and exploitation of donors.

Next Steps:

Staff will send the finalized workgroup roster to UNOS leadership to be approved and will schedule their first meeting in January or February 2021.

Upcoming Meeting

- January 28, 2021 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Barry Friedman
 - Howard Nathan
 - Min Zhou
 - Peter Stock
 - Prakash Rao
 - Sylvia Gonzalez
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Amber Wilk
 - Matt Prentice
 - Peter Sokol
 - Rebecca Brookman
 - Robert Hunter
 - Victor Melendez