

**OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee
Technology Tools Workgroup
Meeting Summary
December 18, 2020
Conference Call**

David Marshman, Workgroup Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Technology Tools Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 12/18/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Opening Remarks
2. Overview of Current IT Projects
3. Workgroup Goals/Project Scope

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

1. Opening Remarks and Background

UNOS staff reviewed Policy Oversight Committee's (POC) Efficient Matching Strategic Policy Priority workgroup recommendations, which include the establishment of Match Run Rules, Technology Tools, and Biopsy Standards workgroups. UNOS staff explained the Technology Tools Workgroup has been tasked to work on "*Communication Enhancements in DonorNet*" and "*Image Sharing*" projects.

2. Overview of Current IT Projects

UNOS IT Staff positioned the goals of the workgroup within their transplant lifecycle framework, focusing on match runs, offer notification, evaluation, and acceptance, recovery, and transportation. UNOS IT staff reviewed five initiatives to provide context to the workgroup on current IT projects and identify areas for feedback. The Workgroup reviewed DonorNet Mobile, Improved In-App Notifications, Chat Capabilities, Post Cross-Clamp Test Results, and UNet Image Sharing initiatives.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS IT staff provided an overview of the DonorNet Mobile initiative, and capabilities it will provide once rolled out nationally in March 2021. A member asked if transplant centers would be able to upload attachments to the donor record, as accepting centers sometimes do with pump or biopsy information in case an organ is reallocated. Another member agreed this would be a good idea. UNOS staff clarified with the member that this would be an attachment uploaded by an accepting center, and noted that this is something a host Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) would want to control. One member pointed out this is also a quality control item.

UNOS IT staff provided an overview of the Improved In-App Notifications initiative, and asked specifically for feedback on the relevant information users will need and want to see. The Chair pointed to the concept of in-app notifications as an area where the workgroup will provide significant input, drawing from their own industry expertise. One member mentioned key notifications could include if a donor develops a positive infectious disease result, when new attachments are uploaded, whether a donor after circulatory death (DCD donor) has experienced cardiac arrest, and when changes in organ recovery times are made. This member also noted that notifications could be used to remind transplant

coordinators to delist transplanted patients from the Waitlist before the end of the 24 hour delist period. The Chair noted that there are still no specific data fields for DCD donation, particularly extubation, pulselessness, and declaration of death times, although more than 20% of donors are DCD. The Chair pointed out that these data points are essential information for evaluating DCD organs.

One member stated they would like alerts to donors entering organ recovery and timing of cross clamp. Another member pointed out that DonorNet currently has organ recovery time notification capabilities, although use is variable. The Chair agreed that standardization of use with existing notification capabilities would be helpful, and that recommending either policy or process recommendations to ensure consistency in practice is within the scope of the Workgroup. The member also mentioned they would like to see notifications for changes in acceptances within the match run. Another member clarified that this was for provisional acceptances pending post-clamp information, and not documented final acceptances, since these cannot be altered by the transplant centers. A member suggested developing a way for OPO coordinators to view transplant center receipt of these notifications.

UNOS IT staff presented the in-application Chat Capabilities initiative, and identified specific need for feedback in the kinds of conversations that would utilize chat functionalities. The Workgroup had no comments or suggestions at this point.

UNOS IT staff provided an overview of the Post Cross Clamp Test Results initiative, which provides a notification system that OPOs can initiate when results are obtained post-cross clamp that may affect a recipient, particularly test results like cultures and pathology. This initiative is currently in pilot status with five OPOs. UNOS staff clarified this is not a replacement for reporting patient safety events in the Patient Safety Portal. The Chair pointed to this project as a good example of improved notification processes, particularly given its established functionality and dashboard. One member mentioned that their OPO has been testing this pilot and enjoy using this program.

UNOS IT staff presented their UNet Image Sharing initiative, which is currently in national rollout. UNOS IT staff explained that they plan to expand UNet Image Sharing to include the ability to download image studies, volumetric assessment, mobile access, secure link sharing for non-UNet users to view and consult on donor images, and the ability to view biopsy images and potentially access pathology interpretation services. A HRSA representative asked when image sharing would be rolled out for all imaging, including biopsy imaging. UNOS IT staff clarified that image sharing is current in national rollout, but that the biopsy image sharing timeline has yet to be defined.

The Chair reopened discussion for remaining feedback, suggestions, and questions for UNOS IT staff. One member proposed a notification that would allow a transplant center to notify other transplant centers reviewing an organ offer of any potential disease transmission concerns related to the donor, such as cancers or infectious diseases. The member clarified that this would allow transplant centers to communicate concerns about certain donors and offers that other centers may overlook, and improve patient safety. Another member pointed out that secure sharing capabilities for donor records and DonorNet information would be useful when trying to consult with non-UNet users as well. The member also emphasized the need to encourage OPOs to share high quality pathology slides and images.

A member mentioned that it will be critical to consider how new technology may interact with transplant centers' and donor hospitals' electronic medical records.

Next steps:

The Workgroup members will solicit and prioritize ideas and feedback on these projects and potential technology tools from their organizations and other professional contacts.

3. Workgroup Goals and Project Scope

The Workgroup has been charged with two tasks. The first is for the Workgroup to utilize both transplant industry expertise and networks to provide critical feedback to UNOS IT on technology tools projects. The second is to identify any necessary potential policy or process components. The Chair pointed to improving consistency in notification use among OPOs as a potential aspect of any technology tools-related policy.

A member asked if feedback and ideas were restricted to the presented IT initiatives. UNOS staff clarified that the main focus of the workgroup was to utilize expertise and provide feedback on these projects to IT. The Chair and UNOS staff continued to clarify that additional ideas outside of the current IT project roadmap should be mentioned could be captured for later developments.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Steps

Workgroup members will collect additional feedback and ideas from their organizations and professional networks on these projects to share at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

- TBD

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Ben Schleich
 - Bruce Nicely
 - Maria Casarella
 - Charles Strom
 - Christopher Curran
 - David Marshman
 - Debra Cooper
 - Erica Simonich
 - Helen Irving
 - Jeffrey Trageser
 - Kenny Laferriere
 - Kurt Shutterly
 - Maria Casarella
 - Peter Abt
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adriana Martinez
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Raelene Skerda
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
 - Bertram Kasiske
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alice Toll
 - Amy Putnam
 - Bonnie Felice
 - Craig Connors
 - Kerrie Masten
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Lauren Motley
 - Lloyd Board
 - Matthew Prentice
 - Peter Sokol
 - Randall Fenderson
 - Rebecca Brookman
 - Rob McTier
 - Robert Hunter
 - Shannon Edwards
 - Nicole Benjamin
- **Other Attendees**
 - Diane Brockmeier