

**OPTN Data Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
January 11, 2021  
Conference Call**

**Rachel Patzer, Ph.D., Chair  
Sumit Mohan, M.D., M.P.H., Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Data Advisory Committee (DAC) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 1/11/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. 2021 DAC Roster Process
2. Quarter 1 (Q1) Data Definition Review
3. Refusal Code Review
4. OPTN Update

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

### **1. 2021 DAC Roster Process**

UNOS staff shared an overview of the 2021 DAC roster.

#### Summary of discussion:

Only one position is currently being recruited for and all bylaw requirements have already been met. Committee leadership has identified a need for the potential applicant to have clinical or procurement transplant coordinator experience, data coordinator experience, and/or clinical liver expertise. All committees are striving to increase diversity.

#### Next steps:

UNOS staff will continue working with DAC leadership to select a primary and secondary applicant to offer a position to by late February. By early March, the Committee will have a new member selected who will have a term start date of July 1, 2021. This new member will be invited to attend meetings prior to their start date in order to become more oriented to the work of the Committee.

The Chair invited members to suggest applicant qualities they believe will strengthen the Committee.

### **2. Q1 Data Definition Review**

The DAC reviewed and discussed data definitions shown in table below. Members were asked for their feedback and whether or not they endorse the proposed changes. The table includes the members' endorsement decision, as well as any proposed changes.

Data Element	Endorsed by DAC	Member Question(s)	Proposed Additional Language	Changes Proposed after Discussion
Exercise Oxygen Consumption	Yes	Is 3 months the appropriate time value?	None	None
Serum Albumin	No	Should the method (BCP or BCG) be collected? Should “or plasma” be removed from the definition?	Should a specific timeframe be included?	None, tabled for future discussion
Serum Creatinine	No	Should “or plasma” be removed from the definition?	None	None, tabled for future discussion

Summary of discussion:

*Exercise Oxygen Consumption*

The Chair raised a concern that data collection may be limited if values collected prior to three months are exempt. The inclusion of a three-month timeframe was chosen because it is clinically relevant. A member agreed that oxygen values collected earlier than three months may no longer be relevant in evaluating heart patients due to the changes in their condition and the impact of using a ventricular assist devices (VAD) for applicable candidates. The Chair commented that consistency around time values should be considered when evaluating future data definitions. The members agreed to endorse the definition as presented.

*Serum Albumin*

The Vice Chair commented that albumin is not typically measured in plasma. The members agreed that the definition should not incorporate the addition of plasma albumin, keeping only serum albumin.

The Vice Chair commented that most registries recognize two methods for measuring albumin, bromocresol purple (BCP) and bromocresol green (BCG) which provide considerably different results. Due to this variability, the Vice Chair recommended that the method should also be collected. Additionally, he recommended that methods be collected for all lab values that are used for determining allocation priority.

The Chair asked if a specific timeframe should be included (i.e. three months) as part of the definition to further define “most recent value.” The Vice Chair commented that kidney and pancreas candidates’ albumin is routinely measured once a month at dialysis units. UNOS staff will reach out to the organ specific committees to determine what an appropriate timeframe may be.

The Chair suggested editing the serum albumin definition included on the Living Donor Registration Form (LDR) liver post-operative clinical information to read “at discharge or within 6 weeks” rather than

“at discharge or 6 weeks.” UNOS staff noted that if this edit is made, other definitions should apply the same edits across the form for consistency.

### *Serum Creatinine*

The Vice Chair commented that creatinine is not typically measured in plasma and suggested removing “or plasma” from the definition.

#### Next steps:

UNOS staff will follow up with member who requested the definition change to serum albumin and serum creatinine to learn more about the suggestion to add “plasma” to the definition. This information will be shared with the Committee at a future meeting.

### **3. Refusal Code Review**

UNOS staff presented the updated list of proposed refusal codes developed by the Refusal Codes and Late Turndowns Workgroup (Workgroup). The members were asked to provide feedback.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member suggested including “Massive transfusion, blood type result unreliable” as a refusal code in the *Crossmatch Related Reasons* category. The members discussed whether organs allocated using the incorrect blood type due to massive transfusions is a common enough occurrence to warrant a standalone code.

A member suggested moving “Number of HLA mismatches unacceptable” to the *Crossmatch Related Reasons* category.

These suggestions will be shared with the Workgroup for further discussion.

#### Next steps:

Members were invited to provide additional feedback by email.

### **4. OPTN Update**

#### Summary of discussion:

The Chair encouraged the members to attend their regional meetings.

#### Next steps:

Due to time constraints, additional information regarding the December 2020 OPTN Board of Directors meeting, how to register for regional meetings, and a preview of proposals going out for public comment will be emailed to members.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- February 8, 2021 (teleconference)
- February 18, 2021 (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Anna Mello
  - Benjamin Schleich
  - Bilal Mahmood
  - Colleen O'Donnell Flores
  - Farhan Zafar
  - Heather Hickland
  - Jon Snyder
  - Kristine Browning
  - Lauren Kearns
  - Macey Levan
  - Melissa McQueen
  - Rachel Patzer
  - Sumit Mohan
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Adriana Martinez
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Ajay Israni
  - Bertram L. Kasiske
  - Maryam Valapour
  - Nick Salkowski
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Adel Husayni
  - Carly Engelberger
  - Kiana Stewart
  - Kim Uccellini
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Leah Slife
  - Matt Prentice
  - Nicole Benjamin
  - Peter Sokol
  - Randall Fenderson
  - Robert Hunter
  - Sarah Konigsburg
  - Sarah Taranto
  - Susan Tlusty