

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
February 25, 2021
Conference Call**

**Barry Friedman, RN, BSN, MBA, CPTC, Chair
Pramod Bonde, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 02/25/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Presentation: Modify the Deceased Donor Registration (DDR) Form
2. Public Comment Presentation: 2021 – 2024 OPTN Strategic Plan
3. Discussion: Non-US Citizen/Non-US Resident (NCNR) Guidance Document
4. Update: International Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup

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

1. Public Comment Presentation: Modify the Deceased Donor Registration (DDR) Form

The Committee reviewed the OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee's proposal, *Modify the Deceased Donor Registration Form*.

Summary of discussion:

A member stated the Committee seeks transparency in transplants that occur within United States as they pertain to non-US citizens/non-US residents (NCNR). The member stated that it is valuable to have data on the percentage of donors that are NCNR because it will help put in perspective the percentage of NCNR recipients that receive transplantation in the United States.

A member stated that "unknown" can stay as a choice for the citizenship status data field. The member suggested that the source of citizenship status information should also be collected.

Another member suggested that residency information should be collected in addition to citizenship status for more valuable data. The Chair of the OPO Committee responded that the OPO Committee would take this feedback and potentially could be added into the phase two of this project. The member also mentioned the variation in how citizenship status is entered. The Chair of the OPO Committee responded that the OPO Committee would take this feedback and try to incorporate more clarity on accurate citizenship data collection.

The Chair emphasized that the community needs to understand why the data is collected. The Chair added that collection of citizenship status data, across forms is important for the ability to offer effective, and individualized, care plans.

The Committee agreed that citizenship status is an important data element and supports continued collection of it on the DDR form.

There were no additional questions or comments.

2. Public Comment Presentation: 2021 – 2024 OPTN Strategic Plan

The Committee reviewed the OPTN Executive Committee's proposal, *2021- 2024 OPTN Strategic Plan*.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair expressed interest in the OPTN defining qualifications for multi-organ transplant. A member responded that metrics should be developed for the outcomes of multi-organs transplants.

Another member stated that the transplant program metric regarding utilization is not evaluated thoroughly, and expressed concern with increasing number of organs not being utilized. The member added that in Spain, 55% of the organs transplanted are from donors over the age of 60, while in the United States 13% of the organs transplanted are from donors over the age of 60. The member stated that transplant programs should be held accountable for utilizing available organs, otherwise the number of transplants will not increase. A member responded that transplant programs are worried about report cards, which are publicly available to the community and insurance providers. The member suggested a metric to reflect how much risk transplant programs are taking to transplant patients.

A member stated that there are no incentives to utilize more marginal organs. The member added that until this is changed, there is not a pathway forward to increase utilization.

There were no questions or comments.

3. Discussion: Non-US Citizen/Non-US Resident (NCNR) Guidance Document

The Committee discussed the NCNR Guidance Document project.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee reviewed, *The landscape of international living kidney donation in the United States* (Ammary et al, 2018). The article highlighted lower rates of follow-up for international living kidney donors when compared to domestic living kidney donors. The Committee requested the Living Donor Committee provide input regarding follow-up rates of living donors and citizenship status.

There were no additional questions or comments.

Next Steps:

The NCNR Guidance Document will be presented to the OPTN Executive Committee on March 1, 2021.

4. Update: International Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup

The Committee reviewed the International KPD Workgroup's discussion from their first meeting on February 24, 2021.

Summary of discussion:

Summary of 2/24 meeting discussions

- Net impact of an international KPD program between Canada and US
- Ensure donor and recipient support and follow-up
- Sharing of private health information
- Canadian Blood Services
- Financial aspects
- Histocompatibility alignment
- National Marrow Donor Program

The Chair stated a potential idea of creating criteria for populations that are hard to match, medically urgent, etc. to participate in an international kidney exchange to expedite the transplantation process. The Chair emphasized that the Workgroup is still in the exploratory phase, and needs to look into the impact of a potential international KPD program to understand the net worth of such a project.

A member asked about a system for deceased donor organ exchanges between Canada and the United States. The Chair responded there is a system for this. Another member added there is low utilization for this because of reimbursement issues as well as certain restrictions in the process.

There were no additional questions or comments. The meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 25, 2021 (teleconference)
- April 22, 2021 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Barry Friedman
 - Diane Brockmeier
 - Howard Nathan
 - Kishore Iyer
 - Min Zhou
 - Samy Riad
 - Sylvia Gonzalez
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Jen Wainright
 - Matt Prentice
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Peter Sokol
 - Robert Hunter