

OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)

Meeting Summary

March 25, 2021

Conference Call with GoToTraining

Ian Jamieson, Chair

Heung Bae Kim, M.D., Vice Chair

Introduction

The Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) met by conference call in open and closed session via Citrix GoToTraining on March 25, 2021, and discussed the following agenda items:

1. Performance Monitoring Enhancement Project
2. Membership Requirements Revision Project

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

1. Performance Monitoring Enhancement Project

Staff updated the Committee on the status of the Performance Monitoring Enhancement Project and reviewed the goals of the project. Staff also summarized the details of the Performance Monitoring Enhancement Subcommittee's conference call held on March 12, 2021. Staff explained that the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) demonstrated a tool (Post-Transplant Algorithm Explorer) during the subcommittee meeting. The tool provides additional information on the different boundaries for each organ type. Staff explained that the tool also included information on the power and false positive rate for each potential boundary and data for programs that fall within that selected boundary. Staff provided the Committee with the link to access the tool and the SRTR Director demonstrated the tool. The Director explained that the tool allowed SRTR to look quickly at any combination of flagging boundaries to see the properties of those boundaries. He also demonstrated an example algorithm using the tool. The Director explained that current MPSC boundaries could be compared with any algorithm, noted the statistical properties (criterion power), and showed the number of programs that would be identified in the example algorithm.

A committee member asked SRTR staff about whether there had been improvement in the C-statistics for the risk adjustment models. She stated that the C-statistic for the models raises concerns with the model's ability to accurately predict performance based on the variables that are included in the model. She specifically referenced the lung graft survival model. The SRTR Director responded that all of the models are available on the SRTR website and that the SRTR has published on the fact that the C-statistic is not a good marker of the predictive ability of the model. He stated that model calibration which measures how well the model actually predicts the outcomes of interest. The Director stated the C-statistics are not provided in the tool but offered to provide information on C-statistics to the Committee. The Performance Monitoring Enhancement Subcommittee Chair noted that the question highlights an issue that the Committee members need to be prepared to answer during public comment. If questions are raised about the need for additional variables in the models, we recognize that additional data collection and inclusion of additional variables in the models may improve the models. However, the Committee only has access to the models currently available to define the boundaries. The questions of additional data collection and changes to the models is separate from the Committee's efforts to revise the performance monitoring and improvement process.

Staff explained that the Performance Monitoring Enhancement Subcommittee also discussed other important goals of the project, which included encouraging more transplants and ensuring intervening where necessary and thinking about options for the review of pediatric components. Staff discussed the timeline of the project and noted additional subcommittee meetings. Staff invited all Committee members to attend the upcoming subcommittee meetings. The Committee participated in a poll to gauge committee interest in attending none, some, or all upcoming subcommittee meetings.

Staff reported that the Performance Monitoring Enhancement Subcommittee Chair would be participating in external stakeholder outreach to make the community aware of the MPSCs intent to revise the review process and to obtain stakeholder feedback on the project.

The Committee provided the following comments and suggestions:

- A committee member supported the tool and a regime that would flag fewer programs and stated that flagging the same number of programs or more programs would be a missed opportunity. He suggested that flagging fewer programs would decrease disincentives to transplant high-risk candidates and acceptance of high-risk organs.
- Another committee member stated that the Committee's workload could increase by looking at more metrics and asked about the rationale for looking at both 90-day and 1-year conditional outcomes. The Chair responded that the Committee was asked to move away from the 1-year post-transplant outcomes based on community feedback that is it not a good measure of transplant program performance. The use of separate 90-day and 1-year conditional metrics are better at looking at different components of the post-transplant experience of a patient and how programs perform. Finally, within a few years, the Committee could be evaluating metrics that may be better markers such as the five-year point prevalent outcome model. This is a process in evolution that was started due to community dissatisfaction with the sole use of 1-year post transplant outcomes as the measure of transplant program performance.

2. Membership Requirements Revision Project

Staff updated the Committee on the status of the Membership Requirements Revision Project and reviewed the comments received during the public comment period on the "Request for Feedback: Update Transplant Program Key Personnel Training and Experience Requirements." Staff reiterated the purpose of the document, which was to gather feedback and comments from the community on the Committee's proposed new framework used to develop training and experience requirements for primary surgeons and physicians, and to simplify the process and update requirements.

Staff reviewed the demographic data for the comments and reported that as of March 24, 2021, comments were received from three individuals, one member transplant hospital, eleven regions, six OPTN committees, and four external stakeholder organizations.

Staff highlighted some key comment themes and the Committee offered initial feedback:

- The Committee Chair noted that the comments received were "very good."
- A committee member provided referenced comments regarding exemptions from certain requirements for individuals who have been a primary within the last 10 years. He stated that changing the required currency from 10 to 5 years, as some comments suggested, would defeat the purpose of the overall goal.
- Another committee member responded to comments related to logs/documentation requirements. She asked about UNOS' ability to store an individual's procurement and

observations logs within member profiles. Staff responded that UNOS was currently investigating ways to update the system and store data to be available to OPTN members.

Staff noted that the Membership Requirements Revisions Subcommittee would review the feedback received in more depth at its March 31 conference call.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 22, 2021, 1-3:00pm, ET, MPSC Conference call
- May 25, 2021, 2-4:00pm, ET, MPSC Conference call
- June 24, 2021, 1-3:00pm, ET, MPSC Conference call
- July 20-22, 2021, Location TBD, MPSC Meeting

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Sanjeev K. Akkina
 - Mark Barr
 - Nicole Berry
 - Christina D. Bishop
 - Errol Bush
 - Theresa M. Daly
 - Maryjane A. Farr
 - Richard N. Formica Jr
 - Adam M. Frank
 - Catherine Frenette
 - Jonathan A. Fridell
 - Michael Gautreaux
 - PJ Geraghty
 - David A. Gerber
 - John R. Gutowski
 - Edward F. Hollinger
 - Ian R. Jamieson
 - Christy M. Keahey
 - Jon A. Kobashigawa
 - Anne M. Krueger
 - Jules Lin
 - Didier A. Mandelbrot
 - Virginia(Ginny) T. McBride
 - Clifford D. Miles
 - Saeed Mohammad
 - Matthew J. O'Connor
 - Nicole A. Pilch
 - Steve Potter
 - Jennifer K. Prinz
 - Scott C. Silvestry
 - Zoe Stewart Lewis
 - Lisa M. Stocks
 - Parsia A. Vagefi
 - Gebhard Wagener
 - Rajat Walia
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Arjun U. Naik
 - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Ryo Hirose
 - Nicholas Salkowski
 - Jon J. Snyder
 - Bryn Thompson
 - Andrew Wey

- **UNOS Staff**
 - Sally Aungier
 - Matt Belton
 - Nicole Benjamin
 - Tameka Bland
 - Robyn DiSalvo
 - Nadine Drumn
 - Katie Favaro
 - Amanda Gurin
 - Asia Harris
 - Danielle Hawkins
 - Kay Lagana
 - Trung Le
 - Ann-Marie Leary
 - Ellen Litkenhaus
 - Jason Livingston
 - Anne McPherson
 - Sandy Miller
 - Amy Minkler
 - Steven Moore
 - Alan Nicholas
 - Jacqui O'Keefe
 - Rob Patterson
 - Michelle Rabold
 - Liz Robbins
 - Sharon Shepherd
 - Leah Slife
 - Olivia Taylor
 - Stephon Thelwell
 - Roger Vacovsky
 - Gabe Vece
 - Marta Waris
 - Betsy Warnick
 - Trevi Wilson
 - Emily Womble
 - Karen Wooten
- **Other Attendees**
 - None