

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
International Kidney Paired Donation Workgroup
March 24, 2021
Conference Call**

Barry Friedman, RN, BSN, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee International Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 03/24/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Review
2. Discussion

1. HRSA Review

HRSA presented a statement to the Workgroup regarding the scope of work.

Summary of discussion:

HRSA stated they are currently reviewing the statutory, regulatory, and contractual authorities and provisions for potential expansion and/or partnership of the OPTN KPD Pilot Program to include the Canadian Blood Services KPD Program. HRSA requested specific details from the Workgroup as to how such an expansion, collaboration, partnership, or cooperation would take shape would be useful for consideration.

HRSA stated that there are different relationship and regulatory legal structures regarding living donor organs from deceased donor organs, which is a topic they will explore.

2. Discussion

The Committee explored the idea of international KPD as a way to increase the number of transplants.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair informed the Workgroup that Canadian Blood Services is not in a position to prioritize cross border sharing due to their KPD program working to standardize certain processes. The Chair added that this will give the Workgroup ample time to work through the various barriers and concerns.

A member stated that the United States should work to create a national KPD program instead of the various KPD programs around the country that operate independently. The Chair stated that this is outside the scope of the International KPD Workgroup and requested this idea be brought to a Committee more aligned to discuss the creation of a national KPD program.

Another member expressed concern regarding the precedent of creating a contract with Canada to allow cross border sharing. The member explained that this precedent could potentially allow another KPD program to enter a similar type of contract with a country that has experienced practices of buying and selling organs. The member stated this concern needs to be addressed to ensure that type of situation does not arise.

A member stated another concern is donor complications and what happens once the organ has traveled outside of the country.

Another member urged the Workgroup to review *The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism* for a better understanding of the ethical issues associated with global kidney exchange.

Upcoming Meeting

- April 28, 2021 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Barry Friedman
 - Howard Nathan
 - Karl Schillinger
 - Nahel Elias
 - Peter Stock
 - Sammy Riad
 - Sylvia Gonzalez
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Chris McLaughlin
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **UNOS**
 - Leah Slife
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Peter Sokol
 - Robert Hunter
 - Ruthanne Leishman
 - Supraja Malladi