

OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee

Meeting Summary

April 21, 2021 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Conference Call

Sharon Klarman, RN-BC, BSN, CCTC, Chair

Stacy McKean, RN, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Transplant Coordinators Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 04/21/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. OPTN Executive Committee Request for Feedback
2. UNOS Connect: TCC Learning Series Update
3. Inactive Codes Revision Project

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

1. OPTN Executive Committee Request for Feedback

UNOS staff provided a brief presentation on the policy update that occurred as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNOS staff posed a range of questions to gain a better understanding of the Committee's feedback to these changes.

Data Summary:

Policy 1.4.F: Updates to Candidate Data During the 2020 COVID-19 Emergency – Currently, 0-1% of adult liver candidates using this policy per week. 0-1 pediatric liver candidates using this policy per week. Peak utilization was at 8% of adult candidates during the week of April 6, 2020.

Applications for Modifications of Kidney Waiting Time during COVID-19 Emergency – Over the past few months, there have been about 20-30 candidates per month submitting these modification requests.

OPTN Liver Committee has proposed a 30-day period for programs to be notified to update labs, while the OPTN Lung Committee has proposed a 90-day notification period.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee Chair inquired if the 20-30 patients utilizing the kidney modifications were coming from 20-30 transplant centers or just a few transplant centers who relied more heavily on the policy. The Chair shared that between April to June 2020, there was difficulty obtaining complete lab draws for HLA testing but has since not been an issue within New England. UNOS staff clarified that the utilization of the policy correlated more closely to the volume at the transplant center and was not localized within a handful of centers. The Chair inquired if there were patterns of utilization that correlated with lockdown times in highly populated areas, such as New York City. UNOS staff had not looked at that information specifically but would get back to the Chair at a later date. A few members echoed the Chair's statement that their centers had their main issue with testing between April to June 2020 or during times of highly restrictive lockdown, but reiterated that it was no longer an issue unless the patient became sick.

With consideration to updating candidate lab policy, one member suggested 30-90 day period would be sufficient and noted that the most medically urgent patients are often hospitalized and able to obtain

labs as needed. The Chair suggested 30-60 days for kidney programs, which a handful of members agreed to that recommendation. In terms of kidney programs more specifically, the Chair specified that programs could be notified that the policy would end in 30 days and have a remaining 30 days after that to submit any final requests.

UNOS staff thanked the Committee for their feedback and will be sharing it with the Executive Committee during their meeting the following week.

2. UNOS Connect: TCC Learning Series Update

UNOS staff provided an update on the TCC Learning Series, specifically the *Managing Active and Inactive Waitlists* and *Coordinating Organ Offers* sections, and next steps.

Summary of discussions:

The Chair thanked the UNOS staff for their time and effort in developing this improved programming. The Chair suggested including reports, such as the SLK eligibility report, information on APIs, and score breakdowns, like kidney distance points for example. Two committee members volunteered to assist UNOS staff and provide feedback moving forward.

3. Inactive Codes Revision Project

UNOS staff provided an overview of the Inactive Codes Revision project and shared the new data definitions that have been established.

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested including a temporarily inactive code for incomplete vaccine series under the Emergency section. This code would apply for patients whom have received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and are waiting for their second dose to complete the vaccine series.

A member inquired on how to proceed with multi-organ candidates and how to best depict them between organ match lists when the transplant team would not want to proceed with an independent kidney transplant. There was discussion on the possibility of expanding the 'Waiting time/ped-adult adjustment' under the administrative section to include this particular situation. However, members expressed concern that their candidate would not receive a multi-organ offer if they were listed as inactive on one of the organ waiting lists. UNOS staff will take this feedback internally and see how these concerns could potentially be addressed.

A member suggested a general code house under the Emergency section that could be as a result for a natural disaster, other emergency, or extenuating circumstances. The Chair supported this suggestion, however another member countered that in Florida they may have to refuse an organ due to a natural disaster but have not inactivated patients due to one. Another member added that hospitals in New Orleans had to inactivate their lists during Hurricane Katrina and in the Mid-Atlantic during Hurricane Sandy. This code was suggested as a general extreme emergency code.

Next steps:

The Chair will present to Transplant Administrators Committee during their Committee meeting in late May.

Upcoming Meetings

- May 19, 2021
- June 16, 2021

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alexandria Dillard
 - Angele Lacks
 - Brenda Durand
 - Donna Campbell
 - Hannah Murry
 - Jaime Myers
 - JoAnn Morey
 - Lisa Gallagher
 - Maria Casarella
 - Melissa Walker
 - Natalie Blackwell
 - Randee Bloom
 - Sergio Manzano
 - Sharon Klarman
 - Stacy McKean
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Arjun Naik
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Beth Coe
 - Courtney Jett
 - Elizabeth Miller
 - Emily Kneipp
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Ross Walton
 - Samantha Settimio
 - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
 - Stacey Lerret