

## **OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**June 23, 2021**

**Conference Call**

**Nancy Metzler, Chair**

**Susan Zylicz, MHA, BSN, RN, CCTC, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 6/23/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. OPTN Board Meeting Update
2. MPSC Performance Metrics Project Update
3. Membership Implementations Update
4. Recognize outgoing members/introduce new members

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

#### **1. OPTN Board Meeting Update**

##### Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff gave an overview of actions recently approved by the Board of Directors as well as other topics discussed at the Board meeting on June 14, 2021. UNOS staff asked the members to reach out if they want additional detail about any of the items covered.

The Chair requested a presentation on the kidney and pancreas allocation policy update at the July Committee meeting.

##### Next steps:

UNOS staff will coordinate a presentation with the Kidney Committee.

#### **2. MPSC Performance Metrics Project Update**

The Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) Chair provided an overview of proposed modifications to MPSC performance monitoring metrics. This proposal is intended to go to public comment in August.

##### Summary of discussion:

The MPSC Chair commented that the MPSC has both an oversight role and a role as a quality improvement peer organization. He shared that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) removed the 1-year patient and graft survival metric from its Conditions of Participation for recertification of transplant programs in 2019. This impacted existing MPSC thresholds which were set with previous CMS monitoring in mind in an effort to intervene to assist programs prior to reaching a CMS threshold. He commented that the new metrics being proposed are for the MPSC to perform its oversight responsibility as authorized by OPTN Contract Task 3.6 and are not intended for use by the public or payers to rate transplant programs. These new monitoring metrics will not require additional

data collection, are risk-adjusted, and are intended to incentivize behaviors that will increase transplants.

With an intention to holistically evaluate transplant program performance, the MPSC is proposing the use of four separate metrics that each measure a distinct aspect of transplant program patient care. These metrics include waitlist mortality rate to measure waiting list patient care, offer acceptance rate to measure offer acceptance practices, 90-day post-transplant graft survival to measure perioperative care and 1-year post-transplant graft survival conditional on 90-day graft survival to measure post-operative care.

The MPSC will monitor these metrics to intervene with programs to provide support if the metric is indicating there may be a patient safety issue. If the program is trending toward a threshold in which intervention may be necessary, the MPSC will provide a notice to the program to encourage self-evaluation and offer assistance. On average, the MPSC has around 68 interactions with programs per cycle.

The Chair raised a concern that focusing on pre-transplant metrics has the potential to discourage listing if the program deems it is unlikely that the patient will ultimately receive a transplant. The MPSC Chair responded that programs need to determine if it is the right decision to add a specific patient to the waitlist.

A member commented that the proposed changes do not seem very different from what is currently implemented. He also raised a concern that, regardless of intent, these metrics may be used by payers to evaluate programs. He expressed another concern regarding kidney waitlist mortality since the transplant programs have very little management over these patients who are primarily being managed and receiving care from a nephrologist or other care provider. The member questioned how the SRTR calculates pre-transplant waitlist mortality. The MPSC Chair commented that there are educational resources from SRTR that explain how waitlist mortality is calculated. The MPSC Chair commented that MPSC used SRTR modeling to determine the thresholds for when the MPSC would intervene, and when they ran the numbers, no kidney programs were flagged based on the waitlist mortality metrics.

A member commented that the MPSC has been incredibly diligent and thoughtful in the development of this project and thanked the MPSC for their work.

#### Next steps:

The Chair encouraged the members to email any other questions or feedback.

### **3. Membership Implementations Update**

#### Summary of discussion:

The MPSC Chair shared that 268 pediatric components at 124 hospitals were approved at the December 2020 Board of Directors meeting and 113 programs opted out or were not approved upon implementation. He commented that some programs opted out due to not meeting criteria or not having staffing in place.

The MPSC Chair shared that 40 vascularized composite allograft (VCA) transplant programs at 20 transplant hospitals were approved at the June 2021 Board of Directors meeting.

The MPSC Chair shared that some reasons transplant programs do not meet requirements are due to missing procurement, observations, currency, and/or credentials. He encouraged the members to develop succession planning in their programs to ensure bylaw requirements are met.

#### Next steps:

UNOS Member Quality staff will attend a future Committee meeting to gather feedback to assist in developing tools and resources to help members complete applications.

#### **4. Recognize outgoing members/introduce new members**

##### Summary of discussion:

The Chair thanked the members who have terms ending at the end of June and welcomed those joining in July.

A departing member thanked UNOS for the opportunity and commented that he was grateful for his experience working with his peers from around the country. Other members commented that they have learned a lot and thanked the members for their guidance and support.

##### **Upcoming Meeting**

- July 28, 2021

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Andrea Tietjen
  - Deb Maurer
  - Denise Neal
  - Deonna Moore
  - Gene Ridolfi
  - Joshua Gossett
  - Kelly Laschkewitsch
  - Melissa Porter
  - Nancy Metzler
  - Paul Myoung
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Ann-Marie Leary
  - Emily Kneipp
  - Jacqueline O'Keefe
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Kristina Hogan
  - Matt Belton
  - Roger Vacovsky
  - Sally Aungier
  - Sarah Konigsburg
  - Sharon Shepherd
  - Susan Tlusty
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Arjun Naik
  - Raelene Skerda
- **Other Attendees**
  - Ian Jamieson
  - Megan Fairbank
  - Rachel Hatmon