

**OPTN Board of Directors
Meeting Summary
October 17, 2024
Webex**

**Richard Formica, MD, President
Lloyd Ratner, MD, MPH, Vice President**

Introduction

The Board of Directors met via Webex on 10/17/2024 to discuss the following agenda items and public comment items:

1. Welcome & Announcements
2. Revise Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System (Network Operations Oversight Committee)
3. Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing (Lung Transplantation Committee)
4. Summer 2024 Public Comment Items
5. Update Criteria for Post-Transplant Graft Survival Metrics Special Public Comment Update (Membership & Professional Standards Committee)

1. Welcome & Announcements

Rich Formica, OPTN Board President, welcomed to the Board to the meeting and presented the agenda.

2. Revise Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System (Network Operations Oversight Committee)

Andrew Kao, Chair of the Network Operations Oversight Committee (NOOC), presented the proposal to Revise Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System. Dr. Kao presented the purpose of the proposal, themes seen throughout public comment, and changes that the committee has made based on public comment feedback. Dr. Kao shared the changes that the committee plans to make in policy, the narrative of the briefing paper, and educational resources.

Summary of Discussion:

The Board discussed changing the term “business members” to “business partners” so it is clearer to the community what the difference is for business membership and other OPTN members. Board members asked about data requests and how those may be impacted by the proposal. It was clarified that the data request process would not be changed. The Board discussed the post-public comment change the committee made to the requirements to remove someone’s access from the OPTN Computer System from 12 to 24 hours after the end of employment.

The Board asked clarifying questions about the existing relationships between business members, transplant hospitals, and organ procurement organizations (OPOs). Contractor staff explained that the purpose of the proposal is to ensure the OPTN is able to hold all members accountable, including business members. Contractor staff explained that currently, OPTN members who grant business members access to the OPTN Computer System are responsible for holding these users accountable.

A Board member asked about the implementation and monitoring of the proposal with the impending changes to the OPTN contract. The Board member asked how the Board would have oversight over the

implementation of the project. The Board discussed the level of risk that is assumed by members when accessing the OPTN Computer System, and the role of site security administrators.

3. Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing (Lung Transplantation Committee)

Dennis Lyu, Vice Chair of the Lung Transplantation Committee, presented the proposal to Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing. Dr. Lyu presented the purpose of the proposal, rationale, themes from public comment, and changes that were made post-public comment.

Summary of Discussion:

A Board member voiced their support for the proposal, noting that these modifications are important to the OPO community. Other Board members representing the OPO community recommended including more information in the proposal to ensure consistent documentation.

The Board discussed whether the policy would require additional donor testing and the potential impact this could have on donor families. A patient and donor family representative on the Board commented on the importance of maximizing the gift of life while also taking into consideration the needs of the donor's family.

4. Summer 2024 Public Comment Items

Contractor staff presented the remaining items that went out for Summer 2024 Public Comment. They shared the key feedback themes from each item and any post-public comment changes. Contractor staff presented the following public comment items:

- Continuous Distribution of Kidneys (Kidney Transplantation Committee)
- Continuous Distribution of Pancreata (Pancreas Committee)
- Continuous Distribution of Livers & Intestines (Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee)
- Continuous Distribution of Hearts (Heart Transplantation Committee)
- Review and Update OPTN Histocompatibility Guidance and Policy with Current Practice (Histocompatibility Committee)
- Reducing and Reporting Critical HLA Discrepancies (Histocompatibility Committee)

Summary of Discussion:

Board members discussed the two proposals from the Histocompatibility Committee. Dr. Formica asked the histocompatibility representatives on the Board to note on any points they felt were important for the Board to consider. The Board was overall supportive of the two items from the Histocompatibility Committee.

5. Update Criteria for Post-Transplant Graft Survival Metrics Special Public Comment Update

Contractor staff presented the special public comment proposal to Update Criteria for Post-Transplant Graft Survival Metrics from the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC). Contractor staff shared that the purpose of the proposal is to encourage utilization of more clinically complex donor organs, remove barriers to increasing the number of transplants, reduce transplant program concern about potential MPSC performance review, and to support the Expedious Task Force's bold aim of 60,000 deceased donor transplants by 2026. Contractor staff shared that the proposal would change the threshold for adult 90-day graft survival and 1-year conditional on 90-day graft survival metrics. Contractor staff noted that the proposed changes are only for adult patients.

Contacting staff shared a summary of public comments received and the sentiment from the community. They shared that the proposal received an overwhelming level of support and it is unlikely that the

MPSC would pursue any post-public comment changes. Contractor staff shared the MPSC's post-implementation monitoring plan.

Summary of Discussion:

The Board discussed the collaboration between the OPTN and the SRTR on this proposal. A representative from HRSA suggested that the OPTN make a formal recommendation regarding collaboration and for HRSA to facilitate communication between the OPTN and SRTR. Board members shared that implementing this proposed policy would be the first key step for the OPTN for thresholds, and the next step is for the OPTN to collaborate with the SRTR.

Board members shared their support for the proposal, specifically their support for only changing the threshold for adults and not changing the pediatric threshold. Board members suggested that the MPSC focus on the use of hard-to-place kidneys after this proposal is implemented.

A representative from HRSA asked about the monitoring plan for the proposal, and contractor staff shared that the monitoring plan was implemented in 2021 with the original proposal on thresholds. The MPSC Chair shared that the committee designed the post-implementation monitoring plan to be nimble because they anticipated thresholds changing in the future.

The meeting adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 21, 2024
- December 2 & 3, 2024
- December 19, 2024

Attendance

- **Board Members**
 - Andrea Tietjen
 - Andrew Kao
 - Brittany Clayborne
 - Caroline Alquist
 - Catherine Kling
 - Christopher Jones
 - Colleen McCarthy
 - Dab Adey
 - Denise Abbey
 - Dev Desai
 - Dianne LaPointe Rudow
 - Emily Blumberg
 - Erika Demars
 - George Surratt
 - Glen Kelley
 - Gaurav Gupta
 - Jen Lau
 - Jennifer Muriett
 - Joe Brownlee
 - Julie Spear
 - Kelley Hitchman
 - Kenneth McCurry
 - Laura Butler
 - Lloyd Ratner
 - Luis Hidalgo
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Michael Kwan
 - Nancy Metzler
 - Osama Gaber
 - Patrick Northup
 - Richard Formica
 - Robert Harland
 - Sandra Amaral
 - Sara Rasmussen
 - Silas Norman
 - Tara Storch
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor
 - Chris McLaughlin
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Anna Messmer
 - Cole Fox
 - Dale Smith
 - Jacqui O'Keefe
 - Kaitlin Swanner

- Kelley Poff
- Lindsay Larkin
- Liz Robbins Callahan
- Michael Ghaffari
- Morgan Jupe
- Sharon Shepherd
- **Other Attendees**
 - Cliff Miles
 - Dennis Lyu