

**OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee
Meeting Summary
February 23, 2022
Conference Call**

**Nancy Metzler, Chair
Susan Zylicz, MHA, BSN, RN, CCTC, Vice-Chair**

Introduction

The Transplant Administrators Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 02/23/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Items

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

1. Public Comment Items

The Committee reviewed proposals and provided feedback on public comment items that had requested input from the Transplant Administrators Committee.

Data summary:

The Committee heard the following proposals, presented by representatives of the sponsoring committees:

- **Continuous Distribution of Kidneys and Pancreata Request for Feedback (*Kidney Transplantation Committee and Pancreas Transplantation Committee*)**
 - The purpose of this request for feedback is to update the community on the progress to date of continuous distribution, as well as to seek feedback to inform the new allocation system.
- **Redesign Map of the OPTN Regions (*Executive Committee*)**
 - The purpose of this proposal is to gather community feedback on options for updating the map of OPTN regions, with the potential to inform a future proposal.
- **Modify Graft Failure Definition for VCA (*Vascularized Composite Allograft Committee*)**
 - The purpose of this proposal is to update the definition of graft failure to include the possibility of planned graft removal, notable in cases such as uterus, where graft removal does not necessarily indicate a failure.

More information on the proposals, as well as public comment feedback, can be found on the [OPTN website](#).

Summary of discussion:

- **Continuous Distribution of Kidneys and Pancreata Request for Feedback**

A member contributed that this process will need to be a continued exercise in "fine-tuning", as there were so many factors to consider. They did support a separation of wait time on dialysis versus wait time off of dialysis, as that encouraged people to get wait time for being on dialysis. This, in turn, reduced the number of inactive candidates on their waitlist. The presenter added that, the focus of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) exercise is not to determine the exact point value of an attribute, but

rather to prioritize certain attributes above others. Once this “mapping” of qualitative responses has been performed, a quantitative mapping can begin based off of that framework. The member concluded by commenting that lots of good things have come out of the updates to kidney and pancreas allocation in recent years, and those changes should be incorporated into the new allocation framework.

- **Redesign Map of the OPTN Regions**

The Vice Chair mentioned that there were concerns voiced in her regional meeting that, as regions grow larger in maps with fewer regions, there would be less “close-knit collaboration” between programs. A member seconded this point, noting that relationships between programs were at the foundation of changing allocation practices; the increased sharing of organs necessitates trust between an increased number of programs. Another member voiced concern that this change could be happening at the wrong time, as Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are also updating their OPO evaluations, which aims to eliminate the lowest performing 25% of all OPOs. A final member offered that, instead of changing the regional mapping, the representation from each region could be re-evaluated, thereby balancing some unequal representation.

- **Modify Graft Failure Definition**

There was no discussion surrounding this agenda item.

Next steps:

Presenting representatives will share feedback from the Committee with their proposal’s sponsoring committee.

Upcoming Meeting

- March 11, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Nancy Metzler
 - Susan Zylicz
 - Rachel Detwiler
 - Megan Fairbank
 - Joshua Gossett
 - Jason Huff
 - Michelle James
 - Deborah Maurer
 - Laura O'Meila
 - Erica Seasor
 - Melissa Roberts
 - Brian Roe
 - Deonna Taylor
 - Scott Wansley
- **HRSA Representatives**
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Angel Carroll
 - Isaac Hager
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Joann White
- **Other Attendees**
 - Peter Kennealey
 - Bohdan Pomahac