

OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

May 22, 2024

Teleconference

Sandra Amaral, MD, MHS, Chair
Vijay Gorantla, MD, PhD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 05/22/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. OPTN OB/GYN Bylaw Language Review
2. OPTN Website Feedback
3. OPTN Expeditious Task Force Update

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

1. OPTN OB/GYN Bylaw Language Change

The committee decided to change proposed bylaw language to reflect that OB/GYNs only need credentialing for OB/GYN work and not transplant-specific work.

Presentation Summary:

An OPTN staff member continued a previous conversation regarding OB/GYN bylaws. The committee considered a bylaw change to add OB/GYN coverage to program coverage plan revisions. This would require an OB/GYN that is credentialed by the hospital to provide OB/GYN support to the uterus transplant program and be able to independently manage the necessary OB/GYN care. The committee also looked at adding wording to the bylaws that would disallow any OB/GYN to serve as a primary at more than one transplant hospital.

Summary of discussion:

The speaker clarified that "credentialed" is referring to being in good standing with their program. A committee member mentioned that the bylaw wording may imply an OB/GYN needs transplant credentials depending on interpretation. A committee member brought up the distinction between primaries at transplant hospitals versus programs, and the speaker responded that having a primary at each hospital allows for time dedicated to the program at said hospital. The committee also discussed the distinctions between hospital credentialing and transplant program credentialing.

Next steps:

These bylaws will be going out to public comment cycle summer 2024.

2. OPTN Website Feedback

No decisions were made.

Presentation Summary:

OPTN staff showed examples of OPTN patient resource pages for the committee to build ideas on a possible upcoming VCA resource page.

Summary of discussion:

The committee discussed other VCA resource websites. A committee member brought up possible patient resources, including emotional support, caregiver support, and informed consent. Another member mentioned included a resource list for the transplant community, including the guidance document that the Committee had out for public comment last summer.¹ One member mentioned including basics of VCA, such as definitions and allocation outlines.

Next Steps:

The Committee will continue to work on updating the OPTN VCA resource website.

3. OPTN Expeditious Task Force Update

No decisions were made.

Presentation Summary:

An OPTN staff member presented updates regarding the OPTN Expeditious Task Force. Staff reviewed goals of the Task Force, including increasing transplants and streamlining communications. Staff discussed Protocol 1 implementation for pre-cross-clamp placement of KDPI 75-100 kidneys, as well as future monitoring of the protocol's progress.

Summary of discussion:

None.

Next Steps:

The Committee will continue to receive updates from the OPTN Expeditious Task Force as they become available.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 26, 2024, at 4 pm ET (teleconference)

¹ <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/policies-bylaws/public-comment/update-guidance-on-optimizing-vca-recovery/>

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Sandra Amaral
 - Amanda Gruendell
 - Brian Berthiaume
 - Charlie Thomas
 - Elliott Richards
 - Gerald Scott Winder
 - Gregory McKenna
 - Paige Porrett
 - Rick Redett
 - Todd Levy
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Avery Cook
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Jesse Howell
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Kayla Balfour
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Marta Waris
- **Other**
 - Eric Genden (incoming Committee member)
 - Ericka Harrison (incoming Committee member)