

OPTN Policy Oversight Committee

Meeting Summary

May 9, 2022

Conference Call

Nicole Turgeon, MD, FACS, Chair

Jennifer Prinz, RN, BSN, MPH, CPTC, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Policy Oversight Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 05/09/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project Benefit and Cost/Benefit Scoring
2. New Project Review
3. Public Comment Slate Preview
4. Closing Comments

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

1. Project Benefit and Cost/Benefit Scoring

The Committee reviewed updates to their project benefit scoring metric. This update will allow the Committee to more objectively score projects and, by extension, better compare the benefit of one to another.

Data summary:

The benefit measures being used by the Committee are:

- Key Patient Measures (30%)
- Vulnerable Populations (23%)
- OPTN Stated Priorities (16%)
- Reach (18%)
 - Size of population affected (9%)
 - Percentage of target pool affected (9%)
- Measurable Impact (13%)
 - Measurable (6.5%)
 - Impact (6.5%)

Staff then presented on how these scores would be applied to a project to generate a composite benefit score.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair noted that measurable impact should consider whether a proposal does or does not have measurable components; to that regard, it should be a binary decision, rather than *High, Medium, or Low*. They also considered that the "Impactful" section be removed, as any project that a committee brings forward likely is considered by them to be impactful.

A member requested more information as to how each response was correlated with a numeric value. Staff detailed how each question was correlated with a certain amount of benefit points, and each

answer below the maximum was rewarded with fewer points. The Chair added that these weights can be adjusted.

Another member supported both the Chair's opinions that measurable impact should be a binary response and that impactful was too subjective for an objective scoring metric. A third member considered that perhaps there could be a differentiation between a project with direct impact and another with indirect impact.

The Chair suggested that "Driving Key Measures" could be replaced by "Strategic Plan Alignment" and "Strategic Policy Priority", as driving key measures is already being considered within the OPTN strategic plan alignment. This was supported by multiple committee members. The Chair also clarified that the response options would be binary.

A member supported having a small subset of "test" project be distributed to Committee members so they can go through the process and see if the score aligns with how they would have ranked the project. A second member supported this idea, noting that this could help ensure that there are not trends of projects that routinely score high (projects impacting adult candidates vs. pediatric, projects impacting kidneys vs. other organs).

Next steps:

Staff will update the benefit scoring metric with the Committee's changes and will add cost for evaluation.

2. New Project Review

The Committee reviewed a project seeking approval, *eGFR Waiting Time Modifications*, sponsored by the OPTN Kidney Transplantation and OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC).

Data summary:

This project will contribute to the sponsoring committees' former project *Establish OPTN Requirements for Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations* by modifying waitlisting time for listed candidates impacted by race-inclusive eGFR calculations. This is intended to allow programs to backdate waiting time to an earlier qualifying date for Black kidney candidates regardless of listing date.

Summary of discussion:

A member considered that this project is a small effort with a potentially large outcome. They added that the timing proposed makes the most sense, as it would follow immediately after the proposal to prohibit the usage of race-inclusive eGFR calculations.

Another member wondered if other areas where eGFR was used should be considered within the scope of this proposal, notably multi-organ transplant and safety net criteria. These candidates could also have been impacted but would not benefit from the proposed changes. The Vice-Chair of the Kidney Committee noted that this proposal is inclusive of all kidney candidates, inclusive of safety net kidney candidates.

A member suggested that this proposal could include an educational component encouraging programs to reach out to African American candidates who may have been previously not considered as candidates. The presenting Vice-Chair responded that they had held an open forum with stakeholder societies to encourage this practice, but they had not considered an OPTN action to reach out to Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs). Staff supporting the MAC noted that there will be educational materials and frequently asked questions distributed. A member supported the distribution to occur with the proposal.

With no further discussion, the Committee voted to approve the new project with 21 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Next steps:

The sponsoring committees will update the Committee with their progress.

3. Public Comment Slate Preview

The Committee was apprised of upcoming agenda items. These included an update to the August-September 2022 Public Comment Slate.

- Modify Candidate Waiting Times Affected by eGFR (Kidney/MAC)
- Region 8 Split Liver Variance (Liver)
- Continued review of NLRB policy and guidance (Liver)
- Liver Continuous Distribution Request for Feedback (Liver)
- Update KPD policy (Kidney)
- Kidney & Pancreas Continuous Distribution Concept Paper (Kidney & Pancreas)
- Enhancements to OPTN Donor Data and Matching System Clinical Data Collection (OPO)
- LAS Phase 2/UMM (Lung)
- Establish lung review board guidance for composite allocation score (Lung)
- Modify Peds Heart Policy ABOi (Heart)
- Redefining Provisional Yes/Approach to Organ Offers Concept Paper (OSC)
- Mandatory offer filters Concept Paper (OSC)- concept paper
- Apply transplant program notification requirements for VCA program inactivation (VCA)

Data summary:

The Committee reviewed each proposal going out for public comment in August.

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested that the Committee retrospectively score the proposals going out for public comment to see how they align with their original weighting from the Committee.

Next steps:

The Committee will remain updated on any changes to the public comment slate.

4. Closing Comments

The Late turndowns Workgroup aimed to better understand the problem of late turndowns through potential data collection across organs. The Workgroup has come to the conclusion that the problem can be better understood from a single-organ approach.

Data summary:

The Data Advisory Committee (DAC) Workgroup reviewed available data, expedited liver monitoring report, report on time limit and acceptance limit, and information on the facilitated pancreas project.

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested that, if the workgroup is considering a single-organ approach, they should address either kidneys or livers, as those are where the most late turndowns occur. A number of members supported liver as the starting position. A member suggested that if an organ is post-crossclamp, certain

decline codes could be unavailable. This would encourage programs to refuse organs pre-crossclamp with information they already have.

Next steps:

The Late Turndowns Workgroup will consider liver as the starting point for late turndown evaluation.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 13, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Nicole Turgeon
 - Jennifer Prinz
 - Sandra Amaral
 - Scott Biggins
 - Marie Budev
 - Lara Danziger-Isakov
 - Alden Doyle
 - Nahel Elias
 - Andrew Flescher
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Alexandra Glazier
 - Valinda Jones
 - Jim Kim
 - John Lunz
 - Molly McCarthy
 - Sumit Mohan
 - Oydeolamu Olaitan
 - Emily Perito
 - Natalie Santiago Blackwell
 - Zoe Stewart
 - Susan Zylicz
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Vanessa Arriola
 - James Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Shannon Taitt
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Ajay Israni
 - Jon Snyder
- **UNOS Staff**
 - James Alcorn
 - Roger Brown
 - Ronnie Burnham
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Carol Covington
 - Cole Fox
 - Rebecca Goff
 - Isaac Hager
 - Darby Harris
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Nadine Hoffman
 - Robert Hunter
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Meghan McDermott

- Eric Messick
- Elizabeth Miller
- Rebecca Murdock
- Samantha Noreen
- Kelley Poff
- Tina Rhoades
- Liz Robbins
- Janis Rosenberg
- Laura Schmitt
- Kaitlin Swanner
- Susan Tlusty
- Kimberly Uccellini
- Sara Rose Wells
- Joann White
- **Other Attendees:**
 - Shelley Hall
 - Kimberly Koontz
 - Martha Pavlakis