

**OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee  
Financial Impact Advisory Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
October 20, 2021  
Conference Call**

## **Introduction**

The Financial Impact Advisory Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 10/20/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. VCA Graft Failure Definition
2. Minimum Set of Donor Criteria
3. Standardized Format for Pathology Report

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

### **1. VCA Graft Failure Definition**

The project will update the definition of graft failure for vascularized composite allografts (VCAs) so as to allow for the possibility of graft removal. This will ensure that patient safety data is being accurately recorded in a way that allows for intended removal of a VCA. This project was presented to the Financial Impact Advisory Workgroup (FIG) for fiscal analysis.

#### Data summary:

From the overview of the project given by the FIG member, they noted that the financial impact will mainly be on the transplant center side. This will not impact programs without VCA programs.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member briefly mentioned they did not think this would even have any financial impact, as it was a data clarification.

#### Next steps:

The VCA Committee will consider the FIG analysis in their proposal as it progresses.

### **2. Minimum Set of Donor Criteria**

This project will set minimum donor kidney criteria for procurement biopsies. This is one of two projects set forth by the OPTN Kidney Committee to standardized biopsy practices across programs.

#### Summary of discussion:

One member mentioned they were initially concerned that there would be financial impact from being required to biopsy more kidneys on procurement; however, their program modeled the proposed changes, which revealed that they would not be doing more biopsies. A second member expressed interest in seeing the standardized form to assess whether there would be cost associated with education surrounding the form. Staff noted that they could circulate both the minimum biopsy criteria form and the standardized pathology report.

#### Next steps:

The Kidney Committee will distribute the two forms to the FIG members, and will consider the financial impact analysis given.

### **3. Standardized Format for Pathology Report**

This project will standardize the pathology report used for recording procurement biopsy results. This is the second of two projects put forward by the OPTN Kidney Committee to standardize biopsy practices across programs.

#### Data Summary:

This project will create a standardized pathology report to eliminate variation that can exist between biopsy reports. Additionally, it will create a consistent set of data that is collected and recorded from each procurement biopsy. This would have minor financial impact surrounding training and education for Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs).

#### Summary of Discussion:

A member noted that there are some electronic medical records that include biopsy forms, so there could be costs associated with reformatting the donor medical record. They did add that these are only startup costs, but could have a broad impact if a number of OPOs have to update their systems. Staff responded, explaining that the form was developed with accessibility and usability in mind, so there should not be significant new training required. It was also clarified that currently this project is both updating a form and updating data collection in UNet<sup>SM</sup>. Staff further added that the deceased donor form (DDR) may also be updated with new fields for biopsy data. A member inquired, then, whether there would be significant programming costs with aligning current electronic biopsy forms with the proposed form. The Kidney Committee representative noted that, at present, almost all biopsy forms uploaded to UNet<sup>SM</sup> are paper forms.

#### **Upcoming Meeting**

- October 28, 2021

## Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
  - Amber Carriker
  - Michelle James
  - Sharon Klarman
  - Debbi McRann
  - Gerald Morris
  - Andrea Tietjen
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Arjun Naik
  - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Kristina Hogan
  - Courtney Jett
  - Krissy Laurie
  - Kayla Temple
- **Other Attendees**
  - Sanda Amaral
  - Andrew Weiss