

OPTN Pancreas Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

September 18, 2023

Conference Call

Dolamu Olaitan, MD, Chair

Ty Dunn, MD, MS, FACS, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Pancreas Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix Webex teleconference on 09/18/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Overview and Discussion: OPTN Task Force on Efficiency
2. Review: Medical Urgency Attribute

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

1. Overview and Discussion: OPTN Task Force on Efficiency

Decision: No decisions were made by the Committee.

The Committee heard an overview of the OPTN Task Force on efficiency ("the Task Force"). The rationale for the Task Force is that there is a need for urgent action to increase efficiency in organ allocation and improve organ utilization. The Task Force will evaluate existing data and recommendations regarding system challenges and improvement. Additionally, the Task Force will prioritize issues to address and recommend short and long-term strategies to address larger challenges related to organ non-use and out-of-sequence organ allocation.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if there is representation from the Committee on the OPTN Task Force. The presenter confirmed that there would be representation from the Committee. Members were encouraged to reach out to the Task Force if interested for consideration.

Next steps:

The Committee will discuss and provide input and suggestions to the OPTN Task Force as needed.

2. Review: Medical Urgency Attribute

Decision: No decisions were made by the Committee.

The Committee continued their discussion on the medical urgency attribute. Currently, medical urgency is not addressed in pancreas policy. In previous meetings, the Committee recommended including medical urgency as an attribute, which would be incorporated into the pancreas review board. The purpose of including the medical urgency attribute would be a review-based attribute that will create a pathway for medically urgent pancreas patients and allow the Committee to collect data on medical

urgency in pancreas patients. The goal is for the Committee to decide on a weight assignment for the medical urgency attribute. The two potential approaches for weight assignment include:

- Assign a low weight to medical urgency.
- Assign medically urgent candidates the same high weight as CPRA/pediatrics/prior living donor.

Summary of discussion:

A member noted that hypoglycemia unawareness is the only criterion proposed for the medical urgency attribute. He inquired if there were other clinical considerations for medical urgency. He asked if there is a candidate with hypoglycemia unawareness, should that patient be prioritized over someone who does not. The presenter replied that there were other criteria for medical urgency; however, hypoglycemia has received overwhelming support for clinical consideration for medical urgency. She encouraged the Committee to continue to consider other clinical considerations. Another member commented that medical urgent patients should receive high-priority weight.

Another member noted that if a 5% or 10% weight were allocated to medical urgency, candidates still would not receive the same priority as local candidates. He explained that it's essential to understand what it means for a patient to be medically urgent. The presenter responded that the committee discussed a binary scale for the attribute. This means that the candidate exception request would either be approved or not. She further explained that they would receive additional points if the candidates' exception request were approved and deemed medically urgent.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue discussions on the medical urgency attribute at an upcoming meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

- October 2, 2023 (Teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Neeraj Singh
 - Rupi Sodhi
 - Rachel Allen
 - Diane Cibrik
 - Mallory Boomsma
 - Dean Kim
 - Asif Sharfuddin
 - Colleen Jay
 - Dolamu Olaitan
 - Muhammad Yaqub
 - Todd Pesavento
 - Shehzad Rehman
 - Girish Mour
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Bryn Thompson
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Raja Kandaswamy
 - Jon Miller
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Joann White
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Sarah Booker
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Lauren Motley
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Carlos Martinez
 - Lindsay Larkin
- **Other Attendees**