

OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

February 27, 2023

Teleconference

Martha Pavlakis, MD, Chair

Jim Kim, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Kidney Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via teleconference on 2/27/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Public Comment Presentation: Ethical Evaluation of Multiple Listing
3. High Calculated Panel Reactive Antibody (CPRA) Signature Requirement
4. Public Comment Presentation: Require Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Confirmatory Typing for Deceased Donors

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

1. Welcome and Announcements

Staff and Committee Leadership welcomed the Committee members. Staff announced there are some delays in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) dashboard modeling to allow for more time for validation. The Committee will revisit the policy scenarios at their next meeting.

Summary of discussion:

There were no questions or comments.

2. Public Comment Presentation: Ethical Evaluation of Multiple Listing

A representative from the OPTN Ethics Committee presented the *Ethical Evaluation of Multiple Listing* white paper currently out for public comment.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair commented they appreciate the work of the Ethics Committee on this topic. The Chair further commented the issue of multiple listing is ethically difficult and the paper's recommendations would be difficult to implement as it would limit patient choice and there are geographic barriers that should be addressed first.

A member commented from their perspective as a patient, they were not aware of multiple listing and that a patient's ability to list at multiple centers is not common knowledge. Additionally, the ability to multiple list or knowledge of the practice may vary depending on where the patient is located (ex. an area where there is a limited number of transplant centers). The member recommended developing more education on a patient's right to multiple list.

Another member commented they support the goal for equity in patient access, but are concerned the paper is not the appropriate approach as it can be perceived as limiting access. The member suggested

the focus should be on making multiple listing available for more patients and resources should be put toward enabling disadvantaged patients more means to multiple list. Members also commented there should be efforts to address insurance barriers and collaboration with end stage renal disease (ESRD) and patient networks to educate the patient community earlier on multiple listing. Another member commented the overall goal of increasing equity is important, but is concerned the recommendations outlined in the paper will not address disparate access.

Next Steps

The Committee's comments will be summarized and submitted as a public comment.

3. High CPRA Signature Requirement

A representative from the OPTN Histocompatibility Committee presented a project idea to remove the signature requirement for high calculated panel reactive antibody (CPRA) levels.

Presentation summary:

Current OPTN Policy *8.4.F: Highly Sensitized Candidates* requires for candidates with a CPRA score of 99 percent or more, for a transplant program's HLA laboratory director and the candidate's physician or surgeon to review and sign a written approval of the unacceptable antigens listed for the candidate.

The Histocompatibility Committee is requesting to remove this requirement from policy and data collection to decrease administrative burden. Upon review, the Histocompatibility Committee determined the only instances of non-compliance detected in monitoring have been clerical in origin and there have been no instances detected of inappropriate unacceptable antigen assignment. Furthermore, the data collection is not needed for policy compliance. This project will be brought to the Policy Oversight Committee for approval and submitted for public comment.

Summary of discussion:

The Histocompatibility Committee Representative asked the Committee if there were any concerns with the project idea. There was no opposition, questions, or comments.

4. Public Comment Presentation: Require Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Confirmatory Typing for Deceased Donors

A representative from the OPTN Histocompatibility Committee presented the *Require Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Confirmatory Typing for Deceased Donors* proposal currently out for public comment.

Summary of discussion:

A member questioned if the confirmatory typing would need to be done before the match is run or before the transplant occurs, as the latter may relieve some of the timing constraints and provide more flexibility. Another member questioned the duration of time required between lab draws, and further commented the cost for an OPO to send samples individually versus batched should be taken into consideration. The Vice Chair commented the proposal's goal makes sense for the benefit of patient safety. The Vice Chair further commented there are concerns for the cost to the system and time involved with requiring a second test. Another member commented a transplant hospital's quality assurance protocols and root cause analysis may also help address this issue. A member questioned if there was also a way to standardize HLA lab costs to help alleviate cost burden.

Next Steps

The Committee's comments will be summarized and submitted as a public comment.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 14, 2023 – Conference call

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Jim Kim
 - Steve Almond
 - Arpita Basu
 - Asif Sharfuddin
 - Chandrasekar Santhanakrishnan
 - Elliot Grodstein
 - Tania Houle
 - Caroline Jadlowiec
 - Jason Rolls
 - Jesse Cox
 - Marian Charlton
 - Marilee Clites
 - Patrick Gee
 - Peter Lalli
 - Sanjeev Akkina
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Ajay Israni
 - Bryn Thompson
 - Grace Lyden
 - Jonathan Miller
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kayla Temple
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Kieran McMahon
 - Ben Wolford
 - Cole Fox
 - Courtney Jett
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Lauren Motley
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - Thomas Dolan
 - Ruthanne Leishman
- **Other**
 - Sena Wilson-Sheehan