

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
July 23, 2024
Conference Call**

**Peter Stock, MD, Chair
Cynthia Forland, Ph.D., Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Management of International Living Donors in the U.S Subcommittee met (the Subcommittee) via Webex teleconference on 07/23/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Presentation: Feedback Form Analysis

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

1. Presentation: Feedback Form Analysis

The Subcommittee heard the analysis results from the feedback form sent to transplant programs to better understand barriers to living donation for non-citizens living outside the US or within the US.

Data summary:

Overview of the Feedback form responses:

- 108 Responses, 52 (48.1%) were complete
- 66 distinct transplant centers
 - 33 responses were missing
 - 10 centers had 2 responses from the same center
 - 1 response indicated multiple transplant centers
- 10 responses indicated that they had established protocols for the recovery of international living donors, and 6 indicated that they would be willing to share.

Summary of discussion:

No decision was made; this was not an agenda item that required a decision.

The Vice Chair commented that it would be helpful to retrieve protocols from the 6 centers that indicated their centers have protocols for evaluating international donors and are willing to share those protocols.

Regarding the feedback form questions, a member asked what the term legal protection means. A member answered that legal protection refers to people with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from several countries. The member highlighted that these individuals are not green card holders but have some legal protection.

Regarding the responses received related to logistic barriers, a member was surprised that the analysis results showed that the potential donor covers the cost associated with lab work, traveling to the transplant program from their home country, lodging, and returning home expenses. Members shared that their experiences differed and stated that the recipients' insurance typically covers these costs. Another member noted that the recipients' insurance usually pays the evaluation and hospitalization expenses; however, the recipients' insurance does not pay the travel expenses. A member inquired whether Medicaid would cover the cost if the potential living donor were a non-citizen resident and the resident's insurance is Medicaid.

The Chair inquired if The National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) is available to international donors. He stated that NLDAC exists to provide access to transplantation for those who want to donate but face financial barriers to doing so.

Next steps:

The Subcommittee will discuss how to collaborate with their group members to develop the guidance document sections.

Upcoming Meeting

- August 27, 2024

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Adrienne Rodgers
 - Angele Lacks
 - Cynthia Forland
 - Peter Stock
 - George Bayliss
 - Mita Shah
 - Nancy Marlin
 - Taryn Shappell
 - Manida Wungjiranirun
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Alex Carmack
 - Brendon Cumiskey
 - Jesse Howell
 - Cole Fox
- **Other Attendees**