

OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee

Meeting Summary

April 22, 2024

Conference Call

Susan Zylicz, MHA, BSN, CCTC, Chair
Jason Huff, MSN, RN, FNKF, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee (“Committee”) met via Cisco WebEx teleconference on 04/22/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. **OPTN Systems Overview**
2. **Primary Program Administrator Definition Review**
3. **Heart Specific Waitlist Removal Documentation**

The following is a summary of the Committee’s discussions:

1. **OPTN Systems Overview**

No decisions were made.

OPTN Contractor Systems staff presented three projects that are currently designed and/or rolling out for OPTN computer systems.

Summary of Presentation:

OPTN Contractor Systems staff reviewed how Committee feedback is incorporated into their work. Contacts and new projects were covered, including a transplant hospital console redesign and new match screens. Another staff member covered improving legibility of ID numbers for patient safety to diminish use of ambiguous fonts.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked for an implementation timeline on the console and match screens, and staff stated that they are currently in prototype design.

Next steps:

None

2. **Primary Program Administrator Definition Review**

No decisions were made.

Summary of Presentation:

A Membership and Professional Standards (MPSC) Committee member presented the Membership and Professional Standards Committee *Membership Revision Project* proposal. The MPSC member stated that this is pertinent given that no comprehensive review of requirements has been done in over 10

years. Considerations presented included: compliance with NOTA/Final Rule, support periodic reassessment, consistency, and reduce complexity and simplify application process.

It was stated that Phase 1 is expected to be out for Public Comment Summer 2024. Appendix A, B, and D were reviewed. Program continued documentations were covered.

The Presenter requested feedback from the Committee to define Primary Program Administrator (“PPA”) as it relates to the OPTN, as PPAs serve a variety of roles.

Summary of discussion:

The presenter mentioned that it is important for this definition to be clarified so that appropriate steps are taken. A committee member asked that if there are multiple administrators, how can other/all administrators get the information that is needed. The Chair responded that a PPA should be identified for each program. A member stated that an alternate program administrator would be helpful for various situations, especially for communication with the OPTN. Someone suggested the title be referred to as “designated” rather than “lead” program administrator in the draft language. One member suggested that voting abilities should be clarified between primary and secondary, and another member responded that this currently may differ from hospital to hospital.

Next steps:

The Committee will provide additional feedback during the Summer 2024 public comment period.

3. Heart Specific Waitlist Removal Documentation

No decisions were made.

Summary of Presentation:

An OPTN Contractor staff member presented a review of the heart waitlist removal form, as it had been noted that programs are failing to complete required data on the form. The question going unanswered is “did the candidate ever have any of the following devices?” in reference to any mechanical heart support devices. They mentioned that on the form, “yes” is the automatic form response, and the device type should be manually filled out. Analysis found that this table is not usually filled out with all or any device names.

Summary of Discussion:

The Chair asked why the previous devices do not repopulate on the form. A member asked why this is on the waitlist removal form. It was suggested that the Transplant Recipient Registration (TRR) form would be a better place to request this information. Another suggestion was that the staff who conduct waitlist removals might not be comfortable inputting specific medical information, as often these staff members are not the same individuals involved in patient registration. A member highlighted that given the time sensitivity and needed reviews of charts, there is an excessive burden and also a concern of lack of understanding regarding the devices. The OPTN Contractor staff member stated they look forward to improving the system for consistency.

Next Steps:

None

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 3, 2024

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Susan Zylicz
 - Jason Huff
 - Stephanie Johnson
 - Sara Geatrakas
 - Megan Fairbank
 - Luke Preczewski
 - Laura O'Melia
 - Kristin Smith
 - Katie Dokus
 - Kay Shields-Ragan
 - Emily Warren
 - Dorrie Dils
 - Chuck Zollinger
 - Chris Wood
 - Brian Cruddas
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Kala Rochelle
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Roger Vacovsky
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - Sharon Shepherd
 - Michael Hollister
 - Marta Waris
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Kevin Daub
 - Janis Rosenberg
 - Jamie Panko
 - Darby Harris
 - Cindy Young
 - Bridgette Huff
 - Angel Carroll
 - Kim Uccellini
- **Other Attendees**
 - Susan Stokemer
 - Rachelle Zomak
 - Nancy Metzler