

OPTN Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

December 4, 2024

Conference Call

Lisa Stocks, RN, MSN, FNP, Chair

Zoe Stewart Lewis, MD, PhD, MPH, FACS, Chair

Introduction

The Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee (Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 12/4/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Update on Vice Chair selection process
2. Request for feedback and public comment messaging

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

1. Update on Vice Chair selection process

OPTN contractor staff presented an update on the Vice Chair selection process.

Presentation summary:

The Vice Chair (VC) nomination and selection process emphasizes transparency, inclusiveness, and thoroughness. The process begins with a call for interest targeting current committee members and alumni from the past five years. Candidates must submit updated volunteer interest forms, personal statements, agree to responsibilities, and meet qualifications. If more than four candidates express interest, the committee narrows the pool to four through a voting process. These four candidates are interviewed by committee leadership, with two finalists recommended to the OPTN Vice President for final appointment. Ideal candidates should have served on an OPTN committee within the last five years, demonstrated full engagement, and possess knowledge of the OPTN policy development process. Additionally, they should exhibit leadership skills, a collaborative approach, systems thinking, and experience in meeting facilitation. A history of leading OPTN subcommittees or working groups is preferred. The role requires a 5–7-year commitment to the organization.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee did not make any decisions.

The Chair expressed concern about the lack of significant OPO (Organ Procurement Organization) candidates and emphasized the importance of ensuring the Committee does not proceed without a strong OPO voice. She has already reached out to several individuals to address this gap.

Next steps:

None were discussed.

2. Request for feedback and public comment messaging

OPTN contractor staff asked for feedback on public comment messaging.

Presentation summary:

The Request for Feedback (RFF) aims to gather community input to refine the MOT Committee’s upcoming policy proposal, planned for public comment in Summer 2025. The proposal seeks to standardize the order in which OPOs work through match runs by incorporating multi-organ allocation tables into policy, promoting equitable access to transplants for single- and multi-organ candidates while enhancing allocation efficiency. The proposal builds on existing allocation classifications without altering organ-specific ranking orders and incorporates system solutions to streamline donor-specific allocation plans. Key feedback emphasizes reducing complexity, providing system-level guidance, and addressing contingencies in allocation. Data analysis includes candidate outcomes, allocation efficiency, and pediatric multi-organ considerations, with a focus on balancing medical urgency and promoting equitable access. The MOT Committee invites community input on prioritization decisions, multi-organ allocation tables, Lung CAS thresholds, and pediatric candidate policies to ensure a well-rounded approach that strengthens the allocation system.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee did not make any decisions

A member discussed the challenges of organ allocation for multi-organ recipients, stressing the importance of data-driven decision-making. They advocated for collecting comprehensive data to better understand patient outcomes and optimize allocation policies. Another member advised focusing on disparities in access to transplantation, particularly for underrepresented populations. They urged the committee to consider socioeconomic factors in policy revisions to ensure equitable access for all patients. Another member highlighted the logistical challenges of multi-organ transplantation, such as organ preservation and timing of surgeries. They suggested leveraging technology and innovations in organ preservation to improve outcomes. Members raised concerns about potential unintended consequences of proposed allocation changes. They called for a thorough impact analysis before implementing new policies to minimize risks to patients and the healthcare system. A member spoke about the importance of stakeholder engagement, including input from patients, transplant centers, and regional networks. They suggested organizing focus groups to gather diverse perspectives and inform policy decisions. Another member provided insights into recent clinical advancements in multi-organ transplantation, such as new surgical techniques and immunosuppressive therapies. They emphasized integrating these advancements into allocation criteria to improve patient survival and quality of life.

Next steps:

None were discussed.

Upcoming Meetings

- December 11, 2024

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Lisa Stocks, Chair
 - Rachel Engen
 - Jonathan Fridell
 - Shelley Hall
 - Jim Kim
 - Precious McCowan
 - Oyedolamu Olaitan
 - Deanna Santana
 - Nicole Turgeon
 - Chris Sonnenday
 - Heather Miller Webb
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Jon Miller
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Viktoria Filatova
 - Katrina Gauntt
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Sarah Roache
 - Ross Walton
 - Kelsi Lindblad
 - Susan Tlusty