

OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee

August 24, 2021

Conference Call

Barry Friedman, RN, BSN, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Pramod Bonde, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 08/24/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome & Announcements
2. Guidance Document Update
3. Annual Report Presentation

1. Welcome & Announcements

The Committee welcomed new members.

2. Guidance Document Update

The Committee's *Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Citizenship Status* document is currently submitted for public comment. There have not been any public comments submitted, but the Committee will continue to receive updates and review any community feedback.

3. Annual Report Presentation

The Committee reviewed annual data related to non-U.S. citizen/non-U.S. resident (NCNR) registrations and transplants, pre *OPTN Policy 17.1.B*.

Data summary:

Key observations for waiting list additions:

- Yearly trends in waiting list additions have remained relatively stable for total NCNR
- Region 4 has seen an increase in percent of NCNR registrations each year, 2017-2020
- Region 5 has the highest percent NCNR registrations, this is similar to previous years
- Region 5 has the highest percent NCNR travelled for transplant registrations
- The majority of all programs and hospitals listed zero NCNR candidates in 2020

Key observations for NCNR transplants:

- The percent of deceased donor NCNR transplants mirrors the percent of NCNR registrations
 - Both fall between 1.2 – 1.3 percent each year, 2017 – 2020
 - The majority of all programs and hospitals performed zero deceased donor NCNR transplants in 2020
 - Regions 1, 5, and 9 have the highest percent of deceased donor transplants for NCNR who travelled for reason of transplant
 - Region 10 has a major percent decrease in deceased donor transplants from 1.1 percent in 2019 to 0.4 percent in 2020
 - The percent of lung transplants that were NCNR has increased yearly
- Living donor NCNR transplants vary annually

- 2018 and 2019 were exceptionally high years for NCNR living donor kidney transplants
- The decline in living donation in 2020 is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on hospitals

Summary of Discussion:

The Chair asked if the annual report accounted for data for those forms that were submitted retrospectively via the *COVID-19 Emergency Policies and Data Collection* proposal. Staff confirmed that the report includes data submitted through the end of June 2021.

A member expressed that the annual report presentation was a very good summary of the entire annual report document.

The Chair stated that previous year's data showed increases of NCNR candidates from gulf countries, while this year's annual report showed more NCNR candidates from South American countries. The Chair explained this is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair expressed interest in comparing NCNR candidate nationalities through the years.

A member stated that the data presented represents what they see within their own institution.

Another member requested data related to NCNR pediatric registrations and transplants by state.

A member asked if the Committee is able to review similar citizenship status data related to deceased organ donors. Staff explained that deceased organ donor citizenship status data was not included in the report because it is not within the scope of OPTN Policy 17.1.B, which specifies the Committee reviews data related to "the registration and transplantation" of NCNRs. Another member responded that reviewing deceased donor citizenship status data would be valuable; however, the data is not accurate. The member explained they are aware of organ procurement organizations who do not ask about citizenship status as they are afraid it will cause those who give consent to not agree to donate the deceased donor's organs.

The member suggested contacting several organ procurement organizations within the border states to survey the actual frequency of non-U.S. citizen/U.S. residents in their donation service area. Another member suggested pulling data from the donor family questionnaire because it asks for where the donor was born.

The Chair suggested reviewing data from AHIRC's survey three years ago, as well as living donor citizenship status. Staff responded that they will review what is available.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 28, 2021 (teleconference)
- October 26, 2021 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Barry Friedman
 - Howard Nathan
 - Min Zhou
 - Nancy Long
 - Peter Stock
 - Prakash Rao
 - Sarah Schultz
 - Sylvia Villalon
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **UNOS**
 - Betsy Gans
 - Jennifer Wainright
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Rebecca Goff
 - Supraja Malladi