

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
June 27, 2024
Webex Meeting**

**Pramod Bonde, MD, Chair
Peter Stock, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Management of International Living Donors in the U.S Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via WebEx teleconference on 6/27/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Finalize Guidance Document Outline
2. Review: Guidance Document Guidelines

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

1. Finalize Guidance Document Outline

The Subcommittee reviewed and finalized the Managing International Living Donations in the US draft guidance document outline.

Summary of discussion:

This was not an agenda item that required a decision.

A member confirmed the communication section of the outline. He stated that it's important to understand how programs communicate with potential international donors whose primary language is not English, what method of communication will be used, and if the program utilizes an interpreter during the evaluation process. He further stated that it is critical to understand if the form of communication will be Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant, including utilizing a HIPAA-secured interpreter, or if it will be less HIPAA compliant, such as using text messages, FaceTime, or WhatsApp. In terms of barriers to understanding cultural considerations, it's important to consider whether the potential donor understands the language being spoken and ensure they understand the evaluation process and are not being coerced.

The Chair agreed and highlighted challenges with communicating with potential international donors. He shared that a team was evaluating an international donor from Tanzania who speaks Swahili and speaks a little bit of English. There were individuals who were interpreting for the potential donor, but the evaluation team may not have been confident if the individual interpreting for the potential donor was translating exactly what was being said to the potential donor. Another member commented that it's important that the physicians, the potential donor, and the interpreter understand what is being communicated.

Members agreed that understanding cultural differences can be challenging. Having an accredited interpreter instead of a family member or friend would ensure that the potential donor receives an accurate interpretation of what is being communicated to them. Using an official interpreter would also

protect both the donor and recipient because it would allow important information to be translated by someone in the medical field.

Summary of discussion:

There were no further discussions.

2. Review: Guidance Document Outline

OPTN Staff reviewed the guidelines for how groups will collaborate with their team to develop the guidance document.

Summary of discussion:

There were no further discussions.

Upcoming Meeting

- July 23, 2024

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Peter Stock
 - Nahel Elias
 - George Bayliss
 - Nancy Marlin
 - Scott Sanoff
 - Cynthia Forland
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Tamika Watkins
- **Other Attendees**