

OPTN Data Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

December 12, 2022

Conference Call

Sumit Mohan, MD, MPH, Chair
Jesse Schold, PhD, M.Stat, M.Ed, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Data Advisory Committee (DAC) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 12/12/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. OPTN Board meeting feedback
2. Introduction of new support staff
3. Public comment and regional meetings
4. Tracking Committee activities
5. 9-month monitoring report for Refusal Code changes
6. Closing remarks

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

1. OPTN Board Meeting Feedback

Enterprise Data Management (EDM) staff presented the *Data Quality Report* to the Committee. This report is an annual deliverable that the Chairs presents to the OPTN Board of Directors during each December Board meeting.

2. Introduction of New Support Staff

Two new staff members joining the Enterprise Data Management (EDM) department introduced themselves, their background, and how they will be supporting the DAC.

3. Public Comment and Regional Meetings

Public comment will begin on January 19, 2023 and will proceed through March 15, 2023. Members are encouraged to review the public comment items and provide feedback online or during their regional meetings. Regional meetings will occur in person and have a hybrid option. Regional meetings will occur in each of the 11 regions. Additionally, the Committee will be meeting in person on February 2, 2023 in Chicago, IL.

4. Tracking Committee Activities

Members were informed of a new spreadsheet that will be added to the Committee's Sharepoint site. This spreadsheet will include a list of data collection-related projects, list of DAC-led projects, Committee meeting dates and potential agenda items, member assignments to other OPTN Committee initiatives, member expertise and experience, and data definitions the Committee has reviewed and may be asked to review. This spreadsheet will also be a location for Committee members to submit project ideas and follow up with staff to inform them of the project idea.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair recommended emailing the spreadsheet to Committee members in case they have issues accessing Sharepoint. Staff acknowledged that some institutions have firewalls that inhibit access to Sharepoint, but encouraged members to reach out if they were having issues accessing the site. The Chair encouraged members to submit their project ideas, recognizing that the Committee will have to prioritize projects but recommended members submit their ideas nonetheless. The Vice Chair added that the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) has shifted its focus to analyzing the measurable benefit and impact of projects post-implementation and recommended members include information on the impact of their project ideas.

5. Update to Refusal Codes: Nine-Month Post-Implementation Monitoring

Staff from the Research Department shared the nine-month post-implementation monitoring report for the DAC's Update to Refusal Code Project.

Summary of discussion:

A member noted that 19% of turn downs were due to 'actual or projected cold ischemic time too long' and recommended reviewing how allocation policy impacts this percentage. The presenter responded that due to the change in refusal codes, there is no baseline to indicate whether this is higher or lower than the previous allocation policy. The presenter identified 'actual or projected cold ischemic time too long' at 19% as the largest refusal reason indicating that the data was reflecting the actual reason for refusing the organ as opposed to a vague code used as a catchall for refusals.

In reference to the "Other, specify" free text analysis, the Vice Chair recommended removing "Other, specify" as a response option. The Vice Chair emphasized that this analysis could aid the Committee in determining what response options are needed and would provide more valuable and accurate data than an open textbox option. Members agreed with this recommendation. The Vice Chair inquired if it would be possible to evaluate and eradicate these textboxes pre-implementation, or if it would be more beneficial to implement textboxes and conduct free text analysis post-implementation to determine if they can be removed. The Vice Chair was cognizant to be consistent in what answers choices are available as to not complicate the data collection processes. The members who do submit data on a daily basis offered to discuss removing the textboxes with their colleagues to determine if removing this as an option would cause any challenges.

A EDM staff member recommended adding three additional questions if an organ is refused. As opposed to selecting a multi-response choice list, following refusal three yes/no questions would ask if the organ was refused due to organ size, medical history, or test results. A member responded that as someone who reviews organ offers, the change in kidney allocation policy has led to a massive increase in the number of organ offers to review, and adding additional questions to organ refusal would likely not be well received. The member added that the benefit of data acquisition would likely not be worth the extra effort and pushback from the community. Alternatively, a member noted that while surgeons are likely to pushback on the additional questions some transplant programs use call teams or other services to review and respond to organ offers.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 9, 2023
- February 2, 2023 – in person meeting (Chicago, IL)
- February 13, 2023
- March 13, 2023

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Christine Maxmeister
 - Daniel Stanton
 - Farhan Zafar
 - Jesse Schold
 - Meghan Muldoon
 - Michael Ison
 - Michael Marvin
 - Paul MacLennan
 - Rachel Patzer
 - Rebecca Baranoff
 - Sumit Mohan
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adriana Martinez
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Ajay Israni
 - Bertram Kasiske
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Anne Zehner
 - Brooke Chenault
 - Eric Messick
 - Kim Uccellini
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Michael Hollister
 - Nadine Hoffman
 - Rae Sheen
 - Robert Hunter
 - Serena Straub
 - Sevgin Hunt
 - Sharon Shepherd