

**OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee
Meeting Summary
November 21, 2024
Conference Call**

**Christine Brenner, RN, BSN, CPTC, CCTC, Chair
Heather Bastardi, RN, MSN, CPNP, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee (the Committee) met via Cisco Webex teleconference on 11/21/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Request to Review OPTN System Ranges
2. Workgroup Report outs
3. Closing Remarks

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

1. Request to Review OPTN System Ranges

The Committee reviewed proposed ranges for OPTN Waiting List and OPTN Data System forms that have been identified for updating.

Summary of presentation:

The Peak O₂ Consumption field in the Risk Stratification Data section on multiple OPTN Waiting List pages for heart, heart-lung, and justification forms. The Exercise Oxygen Consumption field on the heart and heart-lung Transplant Candidate Registration forms on the OPTN Data System.

Proposed ranges:

- Peak O₂ Consumption = 0 - 70 ml/kg/min
- Exercise Oxygen Consumption = 0 - 70 ml/kg/min

Existing ranges:

- Peak O₂ Consumption = 0 - 50 ml/kg/min
- Exercise Oxygen Consumption = 0 - 20 ml/min/kg

Formerly approved ranges:

- Peak O₂ Consumption = 0 - 25 ml/kg/min
- Exercise Oxygen Consumption = 0 - 25 ml/min/kg

Summary of discussion:

The Committee agreed to update the form fields to the proposed ranges:

- Peak O₂ Consumption = 0 - 70 ml/kg/min
- Exercise Oxygen Consumption = 0 - 70 ml/kg/min

Members agreed that increasing the range of options is helpful, highlighting that when ranges are too tight it makes data entry incredibly difficult. One member indicated appreciation for the increased range parameters, noting that it shows greater aggressiveness for organ acceptance and waitlist registrations. Members appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and agreed upon the proposed range changes.

Next steps:

OPTN Contractor staff will pass along feedback to OPTN Systems operating team.

2. Workgroup Report Outs

The members who also serve on various additional workgroups (WG) provided the Committee with an update of where that work is currently.

Summary of discussion:

Members who participate on the Living Donor Decision Data Collection Workgroup, sponsored by the Living Donor Committee, shared that the WG is deciding which data points are most imperative to collect during the living donor process and when specific forms should be filled out. They informed the Committee that the data elements require finetuning and steps are being taken to develop mock forms and assess how these items are to be integrated and implemented into the current system.

Members on the Pre-Waitlist Data Collection WG, sponsored by the Data Advisory Committee, updated the Committee that the recommendations developed are now available for public comment input on the Federal Register with a 60-day window to comment. They encouraged the Committee members to carefully review the data requirements on referral and evaluation of potential transplant candidates, as it was a priority to ensure the data collection is attainable and feedback on these aspects would be greatly appreciated.

A member on the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Performance Monitoring WG, sponsored by the Membership and Professional Standards Committee, shared that they have had robust discussions regarding this. They mentioned that while previously for performance monitoring of transplant programs, the programs were tasked with providing data that should be collected and whereas with this project there had been multiple different attempts made to start collecting this data, but various factors had prevented continuous development. The member also encouraged the Committee to take time to review the proposal on the Federal Register where it is available for public comment. They highlighted in particular that how the data is collected is not currently addressed in the proposal and encouraged the group to provide their feedback and thoughts on that should they submit a comment.

Next steps:

None identified at this time.

3. Closing Remarks

The Committee wrapped up discussion with an open conversation on Expeditious Task Force collaboratives occurring in their various regions

Summary of discussion:

The Chair asked members whether other regions have also experienced any Expeditious Task Force events put on by local OPOs. One member commented that it has been quieter around Expeditious work, as they are involved with that group. They surmised this is potentially due to changes around the OPTN contract and work, possibly the current political environment as well. Members wondered if OPTN

Contractor staff had additional insight into contract changes. Staff shared there is no additional information beyond what is available online on the OPTN and HHS websites.

One member asked how the Expedious events are being shared as they were unaware of the event in their area until after it occurred. They expressed concern that the right stakeholders might not be in the room if the information is not being shared widely enough. It was mentioned that these events are likely targeted at the C-suite level more so than the administrative or coordinator level. A member added that the goal with these meetings is to invite the C-suite individuals to know better the needs of transplantation in general and to encourage growth of transplant programs.

The Chair asked the group if anyone had heard of a movement to remove pre-emptive waiting time for patients on the kidney wait list. A member highlighted that this was a recommendation from the National Academies Science Engineering Medicine (NASEM) Report from 2022.¹ It was recommended that candidates should be listed for transplant only after they have started dialysis instead of relying on a glomerular filtration rate (GFR) of 20 or less, to ensure greater equity and fairness. The member indicated their support for this approach as it could be a welcome change but expressed concern that the transplant community might not be ready for this yet. Other members chimed in that their program might be hesitant to adopt such a measure. A member included that this change could have positive repercussions for the waitlist, as it could reduce the number of patients listed, thereby increasing chances for transplant.

Next steps:

None identified at this time.

Upcoming Meetings

- December 19, 2024

¹ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2022/02/new-report-recommends-changes-to-u-s-organ-transplant-system-to-improve-fairness-and-equity-reduce-nonuse-of-donated-organs-and-improve-the-systems-overall-performance>

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Ashley Cardenas
 - Courtney Risley
 - Stacy McKean
 - Eve Cabatan
 - Gertrude Okelezo
 - Heather Bastardi
 - Christine Brenner
 - Katherine Meneses
 - Kati Robinson
 - Kenny Laferriere
 - Robin Peterson-Webster
 - Stewart Jusim
 - Karl Neumann
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - Houlder Hudgins