

OPTN Heart Committee

Meeting Summary

May 1, 2024

Conference Call

Richard Daly, MD, Chair

J.D. Menteer, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Heart Committee (Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 05/01/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and agenda review
2. CD of Hearts: Confirm Committee agrees with waiting time approach
3. Other Committee business
4. Open Forum

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

1. Welcome and agenda review

The OPTN Contractor shared that because of the American Transplant Congress and the Fourth of July holiday, the Committee's June 5th meeting is re-scheduled to June 12th and the July 3rd meeting is re-scheduled to July 2nd.

2. CD of Hearts: Confirm Committee agrees with waiting time approach

Summary of discussion:

The committee discussed incorporating waiting time points for organ transplant patients, including those with Left Ventricular Assist Devices (LVADs). There was general agreement on the concept of giving waiting time points to patients waiting for various reasons, not just those with LVADs. The committee discussed stratifying the waiting time points based on medical urgency and its impact on different patient populations.

The Vice Chair walked the Committee members through several examples of how the waiting time attribute would award priority points for candidates in different circumstances. The Vice Chair reminded the members that a status 6 adult heart candidate would not receive any additional priority under the waiting time attribute. The candidates at the higher medical urgency statuses who have been waiting the most would receive the most prioritization as a result of the attribute. The Committee members agreed with the approach described by the Vice Chair and their was support for including the attribute in the first iteration of CD of hearts.

The need for data elements to calculate a risk score was discussed. The OPTN Contractor said the current list of data elements would be provided to the Committee and members were asked to provide feedback regarding the appropriateness of the data elements. A member suggested adding more granular information about congenital heart disease to capture specific details about patients.

Next steps:

OPTN Contractor staff will perform an analysis of the currently collected heart risk stratification data elements and provide the results to the Committee at a future meeting.

3. Other Committee business

Summary of discussion:

The OPTN Contractor said that the implementation of heart offer filters is now scheduled for mid-June.

There was a discussion about changing the definition of LVAD to include a single ventricle for certain patients.

The committee was requested to follow up with their staff regarding the completion of information about devices used by patients prior to transplant, as this information is often missing. It was also requested of the members that they reach out to their staff who enter the data and ask if there are any reasons why transplant programs would not provide the information about each heart device a candidate was supported by prior to transplant. The following data fields are required in the OPTN Computer System, but are not always provided: the implant date, explant date, and explant reason. The Committee has received a request about identifying potential reasons for the information not being provided.

The committee discussed the need to prioritize the implementation of the potential changes associated with the escalation of status for waiting time on a ventricular assist device (VAD) project by submitting a public comment proposal in July and going to the OPTN Board in December. However, it was determined that it would not be feasible due to timing and resource constraints. Rather, the Committee could submit a project form to the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) to start the project with the understanding that POC might not approve the proposal. Committee members agreed to create a subgroup to put together a proposal for the POC regarding VAD waiting time changes prior to continuous distribution. The project form will be submitted to POC to seek authorization to proceed with a VAD waiting time change to the current allocation system prior to continuous distribution.

Next steps:

The Committee will create a core group of members to fully develop a project form around the *Escalation of Status for Time on VAD* project and submit it to POC as soon as possible. Members were asked to provide any information about why data is not submitted about devices supporting candidates prior to transplant.

4. Open Forum

There were no speakers for the open forum discussion period.

Upcoming Meetings

- May 21, 2024
- June 5, 2024
- June 18, 2024

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - JD Menteer
 - Tamas Alexy
 - Amrut Ambardekar
 - Jennifer Cowger
 - Timothy Gong
 - Eman Hamad
 - Glen Kelley
 - Cindy Martin
 - Nader Moazami
 - Fawwaz Shaw
 - Martha Tankersley
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Yoon Son Ahn
 - Katie Audette
 - Grace Lyden
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Michael Hollister
 - Kelsi Lindblad
 - Alina Martinez
 - Eric Messick
 - Sarah Roache
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Holly Sobczak
 - Sara Rose Wells
- **Other Attendees**
 - Hannah Copeland
 - Kevin Daly
 - Shelley Hall
 - Jason Smith
 - David Sutcliffe