

## OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee

### Meeting Summary

February 26, 2024

Conference Call

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### Introduction

The Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee (the Committee) met via Webex teleconference on 2/26/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Presentation: *OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027*
2. Public Comment Presentation: *Refit Kidney Donor Profile Index without Race and Hepatitis C Virus*
3. Closed Session Case Review

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

#### 1. Public Comment Presentation: *OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027*

The Committee received a presentation about the *OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027* proposal<sup>1</sup> sponsored by the OPTN Executive Committee. The Committee was asked to provide feedback on the following:

- Do you agree with the Board's proposed areas of strategic focus for the 2024-2027 plan?
- Is a goal or objective missing from this plan that should be considered a strategic priority?
- Are there goals or objectives that should not be included in this plan? If so, should they be maintained in the OPTN's future operations or discontinued altogether?
- Are the stated performance metrics sufficient, measurable, and specific? Are metrics missing from this plan that are needed to provide a holistic view of progress on strategic priorities?
- What organs are at the greatest risk of non-use?

#### Summary of discussion:

Overall, the Committee supported the proposal. Members commended the effort to increase transparency for patients, but strongly encouraged more attention to patient safety. While the proposed goals are appropriate, patient safety should remain paramount as transplant volume increases. There was uncertainty about how the emphasis on efficiency would impact the Committee's ability to implement policy changes essential to improving patient outcomes. Members emphasized that the Committee's work to streamline safety protocols ultimately improves efficiency, but not as outlined in this proposal.

Members emphasized the importance of considering how the short-term goals of increasing transplant volume and reducing non-use may affect long-term patient outcomes. Specifically, some members were

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<sup>1</sup> *OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027*, OPTN Executive Committee, January 2024, [https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/nwrksrgl/exec\\_2024-2027-strategic-plan\\_pcjan24.pdf](https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/nwrksrgl/exec_2024-2027-strategic-plan_pcjan24.pdf) (accessed March 18, 2024).

concerned that pressure to meet these goals could influence the acceptance of lower-quality organs. A member explained that the proposed metrics may disproportionately burden small transplant programs with fewer resources to manage these organs.

Next steps:

The Committee's feedback on this proposal will be posted to the OPTN website for the Winter 2024 Public Comment cycle.

**2. Public Comment Presentation: *Refit Kidney Donor Profile Index without Race and Hepatitis C Virus***

The Committee received a presentation about the *Refit Kidney Donor Profile Index without Race and Hepatitis C Virus* proposal<sup>2</sup> sponsored by the OPTN Minority Affairs Committee. The Committee was asked to provide feedback on the following:

- Do community members support the removal of race and HCV variables from the KDPI calculation? Why or why not?
- Do transplant professionals believe this policy change will impact acceptance behavior when using KDPI to assess deceased donor kidneys for transplant? Why or why not?
- Do patients and donor families support the proposed solution? Why or why not?

Summary of discussion:

The Committee expressed support for the removal of race and Hepatitis C virus variables from the KDPI calculation. Attendees discussed evolving testing for Apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) genes 1 and 2 and noted the potential benefit of stratifying graft outcomes by the presence of APOL1 genes as more data become available.

Next steps:

The Committee's feedback on this proposal will be posted to the OPTN website for the Winter 2024 Public Comment cycle.

**3. Closed Session Case Review**

The Committee had a closed session review of potential donor-derived transmission events.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- March 26, 2024, Houston, TX, 8:30AM CST

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<sup>2</sup> *Refit Kidney Donor Profile Index without Race and Hepatitis C Virus*, OPTN Minority Affairs Committee, January 2024, [https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/ekkfxy4t/mac\\_kdpiracehcv\\_pcjan24.pdf](https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/ekkfxy4t/mac_kdpiracehcv_pcjan24.pdf) (accessed March 18, 2024).

## Attendance (Open Session)

- **Committee Members**
  - Lara Danziger-Isakov
  - Stephanie Pouch
  - Riki Graves
  - Marty Sellers
  - Rachel Miller
  - Charles Marboe
  - Dong Heun Lee
  - R. Patrick Wood
  - Cindy Fisher
  - Gerald Berry
  - Helen Te
  - Sarah Taimur
  - Sam Ho
  - Anna Hughart-Smith
  - Maheen Abidi
- **CDC Representatives**
  - Sridhar Basavaraju
  - Pallavi Annambhotla
  - Ian Kracalik
  - Isabel Griffin
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Marilyn Levi
- **FDA Representatives**
  - Scott Brubaker
- **SRTR Staff**
  - n/a
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Tamika Watkins
  - Cole Fox
  - Leah Nunez
  - Sandy Bartal
  - Sara Langham
  - Susan Tlusty
  - Kelley Poff
  - Houlder Hudgins
- **Other Attendees**
  - Jim Sharrock
  - Alejandro Diez