

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S
Meeting Summary
July 25, 2023
Conference Call**

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

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations – Management of International Living Donors in the U.S (the Subcommittee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 07/25/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

Introduction

The OPTN Management of International Relations Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 07/25/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Research Presentation: 2022 Non-U. S Resident Transplant Activity
2. Discussion: Data Collection

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

1. Research Presentation: 2022 Non-U. S Resident Transplant Activity

The Committee heard a presentation on the 2022 Non-U.S Resident transplant activity, per [OPTN Policy 17.1.B: Review of Non-U.S/Non-U.S Resident Registrations and Transplants](#). The report focuses on waitlist additions, deceased, and living donor transplants.

Data summary:

Waitlist Additions

Year-over-year trends in waiting list additions has remained relatively stable for Total NCNR

- Region 4 had seen an increase in % NCNR registrations each year 2019-2021, but there was a slight decrease in 2022.
- Region 5 had the highest % NCNR registrations until 2022 where it was surpassed by region 9.
- Region 9 also has highest % NCNR-TX registrations
- The majority of all programs and hospitals listed zero NCNR candidates in 2022 (54.0%)

DD NCNR transplants

- An increase nationally from 1.4% to 1.5%
- The majority of all programs and hospitals performed zero DD NCNR transplants in 2022 (58.8%)
- Regions 5, 7 and 9 have highest % NCNR-TX DD Transplants.
- Region 1 has a large % increase in NCNR DD transplants from 1.1% in 2021 to 1.9% in 2022.

Living donor NCNR transplants

- 2019 was a high year for NCNR living donor kidney transplants.

- There was a decline in 2020 that was likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a rebound in 2021.
- 2022 surpassed 2019 in NCNR living donor kidney transplants

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if there is data on which country Non-U. S-Citizen/Non-U. S Resident (NCNR) are traveling for a transplant. The presenter replied yes, the data report includes a breakdown by country and transplant center. Another member stated that earlier studies indicated that NCNR transplants are clustered among a few centers and inquired if this observation remains valid. The presenter replied that she would look at the total percentage of NCNR transplants by the center to confirm this observation. Another member asked if there was data on how many NCNRs live in each part of the country. The presenter replied that the data is based on where the NCNR listing center is located. The Chair commented that looking at the total of NCNR by region would be interesting.

A member asked if there's data on the size of the waitlist addition of each program. The presenter replied that this data does not include that information. A member noted that knowing the high-volume centers performing NCNR transplants would be helpful for the Subcommittee's current project.

A member asked if the report encompasses NCNR recipients and donors. The presenter replied that the data includes NCNR recipient data for all transplant activity and some candidate data for waitlist additions. Another member asked if there was data about the NCNR donors. The presenter replied that donor citizenship is collected on the living donor and deceased donor forms.

The Chair shared that at his center, they perform many NCNR transplants; he questioned if there was some misrepresentation in the data due to a lack of clarification of a Non-U. S Citizen/Resident (NCR) and NCNR. He explained that there may be some discrepancies in the data because there are patients who are U.S. residents but may be misclassified as NCNR. It's challenging for these patients to be listed if they are not residing in the U.S. and therefore inquired if they are being classified correctly. Another member agreed and commented that if a patient does not have a permanent U.S. residency status or a non-permanent temporary status, they may be classified as a non-resident by the transplant program entering the data. Another member inquired if non-U.S Citizens/Residents have social security numbers. A member shared, at their center, a majority of NCR do not have social security. The member further inquired if the data from the annual report collected is based on the information entered by the center's coordinator or the patient's social security number and residency. The presenter replied that the data collected is based on the information from the center; the OPTN does not collect social security numbers.

2. Discussion: Data Collection

The Subcommittee discussed potentially submitting a data request for their current project, managing international living donors in the U.S.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee determined that more discussion is needed before submitting a data request for their project.

A member commented that it would be essential to know if the international living donor is donating to a U.S Citizen/U.S Resident or an NCNR. The Chair inquired about the type of organs that international living donors have donated. Another member asked about the data collected from the NCNR

designation of donors. The presenter replied that the OPTN collects data on the citizenship status of the living donor and deceased donor registration forms. The living donor form includes a U.S Citizen, Non-U.S Citizen/U.S Resident, and NCNR designation fields. The deceased donor registration form includes U.S Citizens, Non-U.S Citizens/U.S Residents, and NCNR. He further asked if the citizenship statuses by donor and recipient would be available for review. The presenter replied that there should be data on donor and recipient citizenship status if a transplant was performed. Staff asked if the Subcommittee would like to submit a data request for their project. The Chair stated that further discussion about the data request is needed before submitting it.

Next steps:

The Subcommittee will continue to discuss data collection for their project.

Upcoming Meeting

- August 22, 2022 (Teleconference)

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Abby Ruiz
 - Ashtar Chami
 - Chang Liu
 - Ehab Saad
 - Nahel Elias
 - Nancy Marlin
 - Scott Sanoff
 - Peter Stock
 - Taryn Shappell
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
 - First Name Last Name
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Jesse Howell
 - Tamika Watkins
- **Other Attendees**