

**OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee  
Kidney Paired Donation Workgroup  
Administrative Focus Group  
Meeting Summary  
February 2, 2022  
Conference Call**

**Peter Kennealey, MD, FACS, Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Administrative Focus Group (the Focus Group) of the Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via teleconference on 02/02/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Review of Goals
2. Review of Administrative-Related Policies
3. Discussion on Potential Updates
4. Project Timeline and Next Steps

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

### **1. Welcome and Review of Goals**

The Administrative Focus Group reviewed the goals of the KPD Policy Review project, and objectives for the Subgroup's discussions.

#### Data summary:

The goal of the project is to review existing KPD policy to ensure alignment with other OPTN policies, identify areas in need of clarification, and identify potential items for future Workgroup projects.

The Focus Group will review administrative policies and consult the Transplant Coordinator (TCC) and Transplant Administrator (TAC) Committees as needed to identify areas in need of modification and alignment:

- 13.1: Candidate Requirements for Participation
- 13.7.G: OPTN KPD Waiting Time Reinstatement
- 13.11: Receiving and Accepting KPD Match Offers

#### Summary of discussion:

The group had no questions or comments.

### **2. Review of Administrative KPD Policies**

The Focus Group reviewed the KPD administrative policies.

#### Data summary:

OPTN Policies 13.1, 13.7, and 13.11:

- 13.1: Candidate Requirements for Participation
- 13.7: OPTN KPD Screening Criteria
  - 13.7.G: OPTN KPD Waiting Time Reinstatement

- 13.11: Receiving and Accepting KPD Match Offers
  - Table 13-4: Deadlines for Performing Responsibilities upon Receiving a KPD Match Offer
  - 13.11.A: Requesting a Deadline Extension for a KPD Exchange

Summary of discussion:

The Focus Group had no initial comments or questions

### **3. Discussion on Potential Updates**

The Focus Group discussed potential updates and modifications to the KPD administrative policies.

Summary of discussion:

#### *13.1: Candidate Requirements for Participation*

Staff shared that the KPD Advisory Council recommended specifying the candidate must be registered and active on the deceased donor waiting list in order to be active on the KPD list, so that a candidate that is inactive on the deceased donor waitlist and unavailable for transplant must also be inactive in the KPD program.

A member asked if there would be any reason that a transplant program would inactivate a candidate's deceased donor wait listing, but still want to consider the candidate for KPD. The member offered issues or changes to candidate insurances a potential example. Another member agreed, noting that a candidate could be ready for transplant but be inactive for insurance reasons, and that would be an instance where they could be active still in KPD. The member remarked that this would be rare, but is possible. One member shared that their program would probably figure out how to help meet the deductible in order to move forward with the transplant, particularly for a hard to match candidate. The other member agreed.

Staff pointed out that a candidate can be inactive in waitlist and active in KPD, and will receive KPD offers unless they are also made inactive in the KPD program. One member asked if there was a scenario where a candidate would want a living donor through a paired exchange but not a deceased donor kidney transplant. Another member commented that older candidates could have concerns about risk of delayed graft function, and may not be able to tolerate it well.

A member asked if it was necessary to specify that the candidate must be active in waitlist to be active in KPD, or if the language could be left as is. Another member agreed, noting that there are cases where it is appropriate to be inactive on the deceased donor waiting list and active in KPD. The member recommended keeping the current language, and updating education and resources to clarify that candidates are not automatically inactivated in KPD when their deceased donor waitlist registration is made inactive.

The Focus Group agreed to leave the language in *OPTN Policy 13.1: Candidate Requirements for Participation* as is, and to recommend updating education and resources regarding separation of KPD and deceased donor waitlist inactivation.

#### *13.7.G: Waiting Time Reinstatement*

Staff shared that the KPD Advisory Council recommended shortening the match offer response time deadline to one business day. Staff explained that the transplant programs have to meet the following deadlines, from time of match offer:

- Two business days to submit a preliminary offer response

- Four business days to coordinate with the other transplant hospital on crossmatch and renal imaging logistics
- 15 business days to report the crossmatch and give a final response, indicating that the program has reviewed the donor's electronic medical record and renal imaging and the crossmatch is complete

Staff noted that policy does not dictate a specific deadline from time of match offer to when the transplant should occur. In addition, policy does provide for transplant programs to request an extension for any of the deadlines. The intention behind the extension was for extenuating circumstances, but the extensions are currently used in less extenuating circumstances. Staff asked if the deadlines are appropriate, or if they should be tightened up.

One member asked which phases have the most extensions, and staff noted that generally, there are no extension requests for the preliminary response. Most extensions are requested through the crossmatching process.

A member remarked that the National Kidney Registry (NKR) is very efficient at matching pairs and moving the pairs through the donation and transplant process. The member commented that the OPTN KPD program should be more aggressive, and expressed support for shortening some deadlines.

Staff pointed out that typically, the longer time from the offer to transplant, the more opportunity there is for something to go wrong and stop the exchange. Staff shared that currently, exchanges go between 60 to 90 days from offer to transplant. One member expressed support for a recommended timeline from match offer to transplant, adding that it's important to move quickly and efficiently through the KPD process. The member recommended a 60 day time frame from match offer to transplant. Another member agreed, noting that programs who also participate in NKR will likely not have issues with updated deadlines, but that others will need to transition to the updated timeline.

One member noted that the NKR program fines transplant programs that do not meet deadlines. The member shared that NKR also sends a score card to the leadership of each participating program, indicating areas for improvement. The member recommended that the OPTN KPD program do something similar, and send some kind of KPD score card, and indicate where the team did and did not meet the requirements. This kind of feedback prompts a program to have discussions on where and how to improve. Another member expressed support for this idea.

#### *13.11.A: Requesting a Deadline Extension for a KPD Exchange*

A member asked if the extension requests can be denied, and staff shared that the extension request is approved if all other transplant hospitals in the exchange agree to the extension, and denied if any of the hospitals refuse the request. If one of the hospitals fails to respond at the end of the second business day, the extension will not be granted. The member expressed disapproval that a hospital's failure to respond defaults to denying a request. The member noted that a non-response shouldn't necessarily deny a request, and that a non-response should default to an approval of the request. Staff shared that transplant hospitals rarely miss or don't respond to extension requests from other programs in an exchange. The member recommended asking for input from the OPTN Transplant Administrators and Transplant Coordinators Committees.

#### **4. Project Timeline and Next Steps**

The Focus Group the project timeline and next steps for the KPD policy review project, as well as the policy modification categories used to estimate project size and organize potential KPD policy modification projects.

## **Upcoming Meeting**

TBD

## **Attendance**

- **Committee Members**
  - Nancy Metzler
  - Sanjeev Akkina
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Lindsay Larkin
  - Ruthanne Leishman
  - Meghan Oley
  - Kayla Temple

\*Due to technological issues, the full attendance for the KPD Administrative Focus Group meeting on 2/2/2022 could not be recorded.