

# Continuous Distribution of Kidneys Update, Summer 2024

*OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee  
Arpita Basu, Vice Chair*

# Purpose of Update

- Inform the community on progress to date on Continuous Distribution of Kidneys and share updates on the Committee's work in efficiency
  - Describes the Committee's discussions related to investigating non-use and establishing continuous distribution specific efficiency goals
  - Details the Committee's ongoing efforts to develop a data driven definition of "hard to place"
  - Outlines the Committee's collaborative and ongoing efforts towards the development of a kidney expedited placement pathway
  - Provides updates on modeling and optimization efforts, including efforts to expand non-use modeling capabilities

# Board Resolution on Efficiency in CD

- On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the OPTN Board of Directors approved a resolution directing the Kidney and Pancreas Committees to incorporate the following goals into the Continuous Distribution project:
  - Decreased non-use and non-utilization of kidneys and pancreata
  - Decreased out of sequence allocation of kidneys
  - Consideration of an expedited placement pathway for kidneys
- This Committee Update describes the Committee's ongoing efforts to incorporate and address these goals

# Update: Efficiency in Continuous Distribution

- The Committee performed extensive literature and data review to understand non-use
  - The Committee identified several considerations for addressing non-use, including in the Continuous Distribution project
    - Defined approach to efficiency in continuous distribution, including establishing efficiency goals and developing a definition of “hard to place”
- The Committee developed goals to define and address efficiency in continuous distribution:
  - Improve allocation efficiency, with ultimate impacts to reduce non-use and allocation out of sequence
  - Maintain or improve post-transplant outcomes and waitlist mortality
  - Increase incorporation of shared decision-making in allocation
  - Understand and incorporate transportation as a balancing factor
  - Accommodate shifting program practices

# Update: Defining “Hard to Place”

- Currently, the Committee is working to develop a preliminary, data-driven definition of “hard to place”
  - Definition will establish an evidence-based standard to describe which kidneys are at increased risk of non-use
- The Committee is considering a multi-pronged approach, incorporating clinical criteria, allocation thresholds, and cold ischemic time
  - Multi-pronged approach ensures flexibility and captures the breadth of reasons an organ may be or become “hard to place”
- The Committee’s efforts to finalize the definition of “hard to place” kidney are ongoing
  - The Committee seeks feedback on the incorporation of clinical criteria, allocation thresholds, and cold ischemic time thresholds discussed in the update

# Update: Kidney Expedited Placement

- The Kidney Committee is sponsoring a collaborative Kidney Expedited Placement Workgroup
  - Representation from OPO, Operations and Safety, Transplant Coordinators, and Ethics Committees
  - Workgroup collaborates with the OPTN Expeditious Task Force and the Task Force's Rescue Allocations Pathway Workgroup
- The Kidney Expedited Placement Workgroup's scope includes:
  - Perform and develop an expedited placement-specific literature review
  - Develop expedited placement variance protocol(s) for submission to the Task Force
  - Considers, develops, and provides input on frameworks for policy and systems implementation of expedited and alternate placement pathways

# Update: Kidney Expedited Placement

- The Workgroup's literature review examined 7 expedited placement pathways across multiple organs and transplant systems
- Based on this review, the Workgroup identified 5 key considerations for kidney expedited placement:
  - Timing
  - Offering effectively
  - Flexibility
  - Transparency and equity
  - Outcomes

# Update: Modeling and Optimization

- The Committee continues to work with Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) partners in modeling and optimization efforts
  - In the Fall, the Committee worked with MIT partners to discuss minimizing pediatric travel distance and ensuring access for the most highly sensitized candidates, including re-optimization of policies
- The Committee submitted a request to the SRTR to assess feasibility of including non-use and efficiency metrics in simulation models, including:
  - Utilization and non-use of deceased donor kidneys
  - Timing and sequence number at acceptance
  - Cold ischemic time
  - Equity in access, specifically for recipients of high KDPI and hard to place kidneys



# FAQs

- What are the projected next steps for this project?

# Additional Questions?

- Kayla Temple, Policy Analyst
  - [Kayla.temple@unos.org](mailto:Kayla.temple@unos.org)

# Related Proposals

- Pancreas Committee Update on Continuous Distribution

# Provide Feedback

Submit public comments on the OPTN website

- July 31 – September 24, 2024
- **[optn.transplant.hrsa.gov](https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov)**



# Regional Meeting Information

- Visit <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/about/regions/regional-meetings/> for the latest regional meeting information and meeting materials

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the OPTN website with links for About, Policies & bylaws, Patients, Professionals, Data & calculators, and News & events. Below the navigation bar is the header 'Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network'. The main content area features a large blue banner with the title 'Regional meetings'. Below the banner is a breadcrumb trail: Home » About » Regions » Regional meetings. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with three items: 'WHAT IS THE OPTN', 'OPTN MEMBERSHIP', and 'GOVERNANCE', each with a downward arrow. The main text area contains the heading 'Regional Meetings' in green, followed by a paragraph: 'Regional meetings are held twice each year during the winter and summer public comment periods. Regional meetings are an opportunity to influence policy proposals, prepare for upcoming changes, and hear perspectives from the transplant community about improvements to organ allocation.' Below this paragraph is a link: 'Here's [what you can expect](#) at regional meetings. New to the public comment process? [Learn more here.](#)'

Thank You For Listening!