

**OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee
Performance Monitoring Enhancement Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
March 19, 2024
Conference Call**

Amit Mather, M.D., Chair

Introduction

The MPSC Performance Monitoring Enhancement Subcommittee met in open session virtually via Webex on March 19, 2024, to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review of thematic analysis of pre-transplant mortality key informant interviews
2. Discuss groundwork for development of pre-transplant mortality review process
3. Next Steps

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

1. Review of thematic analysis of pre-transplant mortality key informant interviews

Staff reviewed the process for development of a thematic analysis based on key informant interviews. Staff have used this process to support development of educational materials and tools for review of programs for the post-transplant graft survival and offer acceptance metrics. Staff conducted key informant interviews with representatives from nine transplant hospitals whose programs had better than expected pre-transplant mortality rate ratios in the July 2023 SRTR report cycle. These hospitals included adult and pediatric programs, hospitals from five regions, small and large programs, and all organs. The key informants were asked about the practices they felt contributed to their programs' success in the pre-transplant phase and resulted in two general keys to success and four themes for improvement.

The general key to success was effective communication which includes use of communication tools and multidisciplinary team involvement in each step of the pre-transplant phase. The main themes for improvement included:

- Develop standardized pre-transplant practices
- Waitlist Management
- Strengthen relationships with referring partners
- Provide thorough patient education

Staff provided specific elements for each theme as follows:

- Develop standardized pre-transplant practices
 - Standardize and adhere to listing criteria and revisit them with multidisciplinary team regularly
 - Develop and document standardized evaluation protocols
 - Complete morbidity and mortality reviews for any pre-transplant mortality
 - Review pre-transplant data, policies, and protocols regularly to make changes as needed
 - Maintain consistent and standardized communication amongst team members

- Develop and document standardized offer acceptance practices to optimize offer acceptance processes.
- Waitlist Management
 - Review listed patients regularly with multidisciplinary team to assess patients' status and update donor acceptance criteria when needed
 - Utilize technology such as the OPTN tools on the UNetSM Data Services portal, and Electronic Health Record checklists to optimize waitlist practices and maintain waitlisted patients
 - Identify patients who are more likely to receive an offer and create hotlists to prevent turndowns and ensure patient readiness
 - Communicate regularly with candidates on the waitlist to ensure their health status is up to date, they know who at the program to contact with any questions or health status changes, and to reinforce education
- Strengthen relationships with referring partners
 - Engage with referring providers regularly to maintain partnerships
 - Provide updates to referring partners on patient's evaluation, listing, and transplant status
 - Collaborate with referring partners to start patient education and establish expectations
- Provide thorough patient education
 - Interact with patients and caregivers on a regular basis to provide ongoing support
 - Provide continuing education in a variety of formats
 - Utilize multidisciplinary providers to provide education

Summary of Discussion:

Decision #1: Subcommittee recommended educational efforts to include email from MPSC Chair with pre-transplant mortality educational resource attached, potential webinar and journal article closer to date of implementation with Subcommittee Chair and SRTR representative to address risk adjustment, number of programs identified and tools available.

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Subcommittee members expressed support for effective practices resource but suggested that, in addition to posting on the OPTN website toolkit and a general OPTN communication, the resource should be sent attached to an email from the MPSC Chair. Subcommittee members expressed support for more transparency to discourage programs from limiting who they put on their waiting list as a way to reduce pre-transplant mortality. More educational efforts such as a webinar and journal article that inform the community about the evaluation of the performance monitoring enhancement project, the number of flags for each cycle, tools available, and how risk adjustment works.

Next Steps

Investigate and plan educational opportunities.

2. Discussion of groundwork for development of pre-transplant mortality review process

Staff reviewed contents of the questionnaires for post-transplant outcomes and offer acceptance and reviewed the questions used during the pre-transplant mortality key informant interviews and

requested feedback from the Subcommittee on the areas of inquiry that should be included in the pre-transplant mortality questionnaire.

Summary of Discussion:

Decision #1: Subcommittee requested that the potential questions to be included on the pre-transplant mortality questionnaire be provided to the Subcommittee to get feedback prior to the next Subcommittee meeting on April 26, 2024.

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Subcommittee members suggested that the questionnaire should be tailored to the pre-transplant phase and should request selection criteria, waiting list management process and protocols, process for review of waiting list mortality events and should allow room for explanation and narrative. A Subcommittee member noted that there was a significant variability in how waiting lists are managed across programs and the size of the program should be considered when choosing reviewers or at very least reviewers should be provided enough information on the program to provide context. The Subcommittee Chair proposed distributing the potential questions to the Subcommittee prior to the next meeting to gather feedback. The Subcommittee members should review the questions from the perspective of how they would answer the questions if their program was flagged and through the lens of a reviewer. The questions can be adjusted based on feedback and presented to the Subcommittee at its next meeting.

Next Steps

Staff will provide potential draft questions to the Subcommittee and gather feedback prior to the next Subcommittee meeting in April.

Upcoming Meetings

MPSC Meeting, April 23, 2024, 3:00 – 5:30 pm ET

Subcommittee Conference Call, April 26, 2024, 3:00 – 5:00 pm ET

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Amit Mathur, Subcommittee Chair
 - Anil Chandraker
 - Robert Fontana
 - Darla Granger
 - Dipanker Gupta
 - Vicki Hunter
 - Michelle James
 - Carolyn Light
 - Nancy Metzler
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Zoe Stewart Lewis
 - David Vega
 - Mark Wakefield
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Arjun Naik
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Jon Miller
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Stephanie Anderson
 - Sally Aungier
 - Matt Belton
 - Katie Favaro
 - Jasmine Gaines
 - Rebecca Goff
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Heather Neil
 - Melissa Santos
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Sharon Shepherd
 - Marta Waris
 - Betsy Warnick
- **Other Attendees**
 - Cliff Miles, Ex Officio