

**OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee  
Meeting Summary  
April 27, 2022  
Conference Call**

**Nancy Metzler, Chair  
Susan Zylicz, MHA, BSN, RN, CCTC, Vice-Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Transplant Administrators Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 04/27/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. OPTN Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup requests feedback regarding recommendations to update and align existing KPD policy
2. Request for additional feedback regarding next iteration of COVID update email
3. Committee Business

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

### **1. OPTN Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Workgroup requests feedback regarding recommendations to update and align existing KPD policy**

The Committee reviewed the KPD Workgroup's project to update OPTN KPD Policy which is currently focusing on policies related to histocompatibility and informed consent. In addition, the proposal would update administrative policies, including changes to current timelines. The Committee was asked for their feedback on the recommended changes to those policies.

#### Summary of discussion:

Regarding the proposed timeline changes to *OPTN Policy 13.11: Receiving and Accepting KPD Match Offers*, the Chair mentioned that other KPD programs administrated by entities other than the OPTN have timelines that are much stricter and are able to move matches through quicker than the OPTN program, so in order to be competitive these shorter timeframes should be advocated for. A member agreed and stated that the program needs this kind of responsiveness and expectation. The Chair also noted that other KPD programs prompt transplant programs if they are not meeting expectations and the Chair appreciated that extra layer of accountability. The Committee felt that these proposed changes were appropriate.

The KPD Workgroup is also proposing a new deadline requiring that paired recovery and transplant is performed within 60 days of receiving a match offer. Currently, exchanges typically go between 60 and 90 days from offer to transplant and increased time can increase the chance of the chain being broken. A member asked what the consequences of not meeting the proposed deadline would be and KPD Workgroup staff said there are no consequences as of yet, but that Organ Center staff do follow-up with transplant programs if they are missing deadlines and added that extension requests are available if necessary. The member added that they think it is difficult to propose a deadline without knowing what the ramifications for missing it are and that many transplant programs are experiencing extreme backlogs for operating room times which may make meeting deadlines more challenging. The Chair expressed concern over stretching the times too far then someone may get a match somewhere else which would cause the chain to start all over again and explained that the deadline does not seem

unreasonable especially when extensions are available. The member explained that a deadline with consequences may make participating in the OPTN's program prohibitive and suggested using language like "target date" instead of deadline. The Committee was supportive of the timeline with the use of language such as "target date". A member asked if living donor feedback was solicited regarding the timeframe and staff noted that they will suggest talking with living donors and recipients in order to get their feedback.

The Committee was asked for feedback regarding *Policy 13.11.A: Requesting a Deadline Extension for a KPD Exchange* so that the language remains flexible, but ensures that the exchanges are still occurring in a timely manner. The Chair stated that they are not comfortable with the extension not being granted if transplant programs do not respond and felt that they should be approved in those instances. Staff added that the KPD Workgroup felt the same way and suggested updating the language. It was also noted that the extensions are not used for extenuating circumstances and are over-utilized and it was asked if there are any suggestions for limiting those occurrences. Members felt that program level education for staff on the consequences of not completing the exchange would be the best option.

## **2. Request for additional feedback regarding next iteration of COVID update email**

The Committee was asked for their feedback on the on-going COVID update emails and for potential improvements in the future.

### Summary of discussion:

The Committee was asked if this is a communication that is always opened by members and a member noted that during the beginning of the pandemic they read from top to bottom and more recently they may skim the information. They suggested that it may be time to space out how often the newsletter is sent out. Other members agreed and felt that monthly may be more appropriate.

The Committee was asked if there was any information that could be added to the current format of the newsletter that would be helpful and a member noted that patients have asked for information on how COVID affects someone who is immunosuppressed. The Committee also suggested reaching out to the OPTN Transplant Coordinator Committee since they have more patient interaction and staff added that they would also be consulted.

The Committee also supported the use of the QR code to aid in getting patient information to patients versus the links that are currently in the newsletter. Members did express concern regarding having the QR code taking patients somewhere with too much information since that may be overwhelming for them and supported having only patient friendly information available. Staff added that it is curated and patient focused. Members liked the idea of the QR code being available via email that can be subsequently shared.

## **3. Committee Business**

The Committee was reminded of the upcoming OPTN Fiscal Impact Group's (FIG) upcoming schedule and for those members to be on the lookout for correspondence and meeting invites. It was also noted that some FIG members' terms are ending and would like anyone who is interested in participating to reach out.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- May 25, 2022
- June 22, 2022

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Nancy Metzler, Chair
  - Denise Neal
  - Erica Seasor
  - Laura O'Melia
  - Megan Fairbank
  - Michelle James
  - Rachel Detwiler
  - Deborah Maurer
  - Brian Roe
  - Melissa Roberts
  - Sara Geatrakas
  - Scott Wansley
  - Stephanie Johnson
  - Deonna Taylor
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Raelene Skerda
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Eric Messick
  - Angel Carroll
  - Kristina Hogan
  - Krissy Laurie
  - James Jobes
  - Kayla Temple
  - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
  - John Gutowski
  - Kavita Devairakkam
  - Christopher Wood