

## **OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**January 18, 2024**

**Teleconference**

**PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, Chair**

**Lori Markham, RN, MSN, CPTC, CCRN, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee met via WebEx teleconference on 01/18/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Expedited Placement Variance Proposal
2. Machine Perfusion Data Collection
3. Member and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) Referral

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

#### **1. Expedited Placement Variance Proposal**

The Committee received a presentation given on behalf of the OPTN Executive Committee regarding their proposal currently out for special public comment.

#### Summary of discussion:

There were no decisions regarding this item.

The Chair asked if OPOs will be guaranteed exemption from Member and Professional Standards Committee review for existing practices that they share related to this proposal. The Vice Chair recommended there be some sort of form that is developed so that whoever is developing a protocol could make sure they cover the criteria being proposed. They also raised a concern about how OPOs will enforce the filters to be utilized, as they might be unsure how to write a protocol that complies with the Final Rule when they are only going to call certain centers willing to accept the organ. OPTN Contractor staff explained that the OPTN Executive Committee and Expeditious Task Force will see similarities across some of these protocols and will combine them. They noted that a form has not been developed but it can be submitted through public comment, the Expeditious Task Force email, or the public comment email address.

The Vice Chair followed up by adding their sentiments of how each area of the country has different definitions of aggressive centers, thus deciding on which criteria make a center "aggressive" may be challenging. UNOS staff noted that the OPTN Executive Committee will approve these protocols and the Expeditious Task Force will be the ones to recommend the protocols to test.

#### Next steps:

Committee members are invited to provide feedback on the OPTN Executive Committee's proposal.

#### **2. Machine Perfusion Data Collection**

The Committee began working on the Machine Perfusion Data collection project.

Summary of discussion:

There were no decisions made regarding this item.

A member questioned if distance and donor size were also being collected. UNOS staff commented that this idea sounds more like an offer filter and is unsure if it would fall into the scope of this project, but the Committee can continue to discuss this as the project moves forward. A member voiced their beliefs that the Committee needs to consider the transplant program perspective, as this will be important to define additional data elements and clearly communicate these elements so that transplant coordinators can assess potential donors appropriately.

Another member noted that it would be helpful to have transplant centers provide the OPOs with terminal labs, as that data is valuable in helping understand which organs are actually best suited to leverage the technology to increase utilization.

The Chair reminded the Committee that this data seems to be OPO data, but some data may be challenging to get from the transplant center as well, and transplant centers may be obligated to collect it and report it. The Vice Chair added that the Committee will work with other organ-specific committees that are impacted by this, as their input is vital.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to work on this project and connect with the relevant OPTN Committees when appropriate.

**3. Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) Referral**

The Committee received a presentation about the MPSC referral regarding procurement team responsibilities.

Summary of discussion:

There were no decisions made regarding this item.

A member commented that host OPOs are responsible for all the packaging and labeling, so they get worried about OPO staff properly checking expiration dates and lot numbers. They continued, saying that it would be easier for OPOs to manage all the supplies for incoming teams and then get it reimbursed, and this would cause fewer complications. The member also indicated that if you're not the person who ordered supplies, and one of the products gets recalled, you will not get the recall notice, posing a dangerous risk. They noted that preventing situations like this would put the OPOs in better situations for recalls. The Chair spoke up, voicing their beliefs that this would not be sustainable for OPOs to do and that they don't mind incoming teams providing their equipment. They continued, noting the point about recalls is good, but they are so rare, so it is not something to worry much about and it is entirely reasonable to insist on OPOs inspecting lot numbers to ensure they are not expired.

The Vice Chair emphasized that in an ideal world, that would be great to do, but it is not realistic to do in today's world. They suggested adding policy language to reflect that if a transplant program is to provide its own equipment, they must have a process to ensure that fluids and other supplies are not expired. A member recommended that communication from both sides could potentially help stop some of these issues. The Chair commented that this referral is within the purview of the Committee.

The Chair suggested that this project go within the “top priority” category of the Prioritization of Projects list but below the timing of family discussion and machine perfusion data collection projects.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to investigate this potential project and decide if this is a project they want to work on within the next year. The Committee will also respond, as requested, to the Membership and Professional Standards Committee by March 5, 2024.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- February 15, 2024 @ 1:00 pm EST (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - PJ Geraghty
  - Lori Markham
  - Clint Hostetler
  - Daniel DiSante
  - Donna Smith
  - Doug Butler
  - Erin Halpin
  - Greg Veenendaal
  - Judy Storfjell
  - Lee Nolen
  - Micah Davis
  - Samantha Endicott
  - Sharyn Sawczak
  - Stephen Gray
  - Theresa Daly
  - Valerie Chipman
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Arjun Naik
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Jon Miller
  - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Robert Hunter
  - Alina Martinez
  - Houlder Hudgins
  - James Alcorn
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Katrina Gauntt
  - Kayla Balfour
  - Kayla Temple
  - Kevin Daub
  - Ross Walton