

**OPTN Heart Committee  
Meeting Summary  
September 20, 2022  
Conference Call**

**Rocky Daly, MD, Chair  
J.D. Menteer, MD, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Heart Transplantation Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 09/20/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Reminder that Public Comment for OPTN Proposals is open through September 28<sup>th</sup>
2. Continuous Distribution of Hearts project: Overview of Allocation Framework Development Process

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

### **1. Reminder that Public Comment for OPTN Proposals is open through September 28th**

Members were reminded that public comment is open until September 28<sup>th</sup> and are encouraged to review public comment items and provide their feedback. Staff highlighted the public comment items that may be of interest to the Committee.

### **2. Continuous Distribution of Hearts project: Overview of Allocation Framework Development Process**

The Committee reviewed the process for developing a heart continuous distribution framework. The process highlighted the timeline, goals, and phases for the allocation framework development. The first phase of the process will be to identify attributes and develop a concept paper to go out for public comment during the Summer of 2023.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member inquired how other organ-specific committees have delegated researching and discussing attributes that are not currently in policy for consideration in continuous distribution. The Liver and Intestine Transplantation Committee developed small workgroups that independently reviewed and discussed the existing research and made a recommendation to the full Committee. This allowed for more in-depth, granular discussions between subject matter experts. A member inquired if the small groups were required to be official and formal OPTN meetings with staff participating. Staff clarified that small groups are able to communicate offline and in informal settings to discuss research or findings, but in order to be transparent in the policy development process all final decisions need to be made by the full Committee at OPTN meetings. The small groups are able to do independent work and report their findings and recommendations to the full Committee for discussion and consideration.

Members identified a few attributes that felt like a logical transition from the existing policy to continuous distribution. First, a member suggested transitioning the current statuses into a range of points to reflect a candidate's medical urgency. The Committee will then have to consider the various components within the status and if different devices or patient conditions should receive more points within a given status. Second, a member noted that post-transplant survival score is not a current

component of heart policy so if the goal of the first iteration of continuous distribution is to transfer the existing policy into a points-based framework then a post-transplant survival score would not be included. The group felt that trying to develop a post-transplant survival score at this point in time would derail their work and should not be their current focus.

The Committee considered including prior living donors as an attribute. So far all of the organ-specific committees are providing some points for prior living donors, but the points will vary based on how prevalent living donors are to that organ-specific transplant group. For example, the OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee only provided 5 points to prior living donors because they are very uncommon in lung transplantation. The Committee hypothesized a similarly low score for heart continuous distribution because prior living donors are uncommon heart transplant patients.

A member suggested that in an attempt to be future thinking, the Committee should consider how xenograph and other technology could be included in continuous distribution. A member noted that the Committee's first task will be to transition the current policy into the new framework, but that the points-based system will be more agile to allow for adjustments to be made expediently in the future.

Next steps:

The Committee will discuss attributes and determine the small workgroups during the in person meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- October 11, 2022
- October 18, 2022

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Adam Schneider
  - Amrut Ambardekar
  - Dimitry Raranov
  - Earl Lovell
  - Glen Kelley
  - Hannah Copeland
  - Jennifer Carapellucci
  - Jennifer Cowger
  - JD Menteer
  - Jonah Odum
  - Jose Garcia
  - Martha Tankersly
  - Robert Goodman
  - Rocky Daly
  - Shelley Hall
  - Tamas Alexy
  - Tariq Ahmad
  - Timothy Gong
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Grace Lyden
  - Katie Audette
  - Monica Colvin
  - Yoon Son Ahn
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Betsy Gans
  - Eric Messick
  - James Alcorn
  - Kelsi Linbald
  - Krissy Laurie
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
  - Daniel Yip