

**OPTN Living Donor Committee  
Meeting Summary  
December 11, 2024  
Conference Call**

**Steve Gonzalez, MD, Chair  
Aneesha Shetty, MD, Vice Chair  
Introduction**

The OPTN Living Donor Committee (“Committee”) met via Cisco WebEx teleconference on 12/24/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Announcements
2. Project Progress Check-In
3. Two Year Living Donor Exclusion Criteria Monitoring Report

The following is a summary of the Committee’s discussions:

## **1. Announcements**

The Disease Transmission Advisory Committee is looking for two Living Donor Members to join a new project workgroup to require West Nile Virus Seasonal Testing for living and deceased donors.

An update to the Report on **Enhancing Living Donation** was provided by staff. Ongoing conversations by the Board and Executive Committee has reaffirmed the importance of living donation. The Board and Executive Committee will continue to determine how to enhance living donation. The current data collection committee project is a major component of this report. A member requested that the report (from June 2024) be re-circulated among the committee members. A member feels this was well received by the Board, but that living donation is still less of a priority than deceased donation. A task force should be requested to enhance donation. It is important to continue to refer to this document as a point of reference going forward in Committee work.

A member asked if there are plans to update the **Living Donor guidelines from 2017**. This is for kidney. A member commented that it is usually updated after ten years. The Chair said he would inquire about any potential updates needed for Liver living donor guidance.

Staff provided an update about **Prior Living Donors Under Lung Continuous Distribution** as a part of the 18 month Lung Continuous Distribution report. There were less than 10 prior living donors that were listed for a transplant and all were transplanted. A member stressed the importance of advocating for prior living donors as continuous distribution progresses. A member asked about prior living donor status for organs in advance of the regional meetings. Staff said this data would be ready in advance of Public Comment for regional meetings. A member asked if there is a difference in the time that prior living donors get transplanted with continuous distribution. Staff said the sample size is too small to report on this and small variations could impact the overall report. Staff said there is a report on how an additional five more medical urgency points impacts time to transplant that could be informative. Staff also recommended that committee members pose these questions during public comment.

## 2. Project Progress Check In

The Committee was provided an update on project readiness and timeline.

### Summary of Presentation:

Slides outlined project progress and the adjusted timeline. Some items may be adjusted again as time progresses. The project is on track to meet the July 2025 public comment period. The workgroup is further refining data collection fields. The last workgroup meeting focused on collection of demographic information. Ongoing collaboration with SRTR is ensuring the project progresses smoothly.

### Summary of Discussion:

The Chair said it is important to continue to refer to the timeline to meet goals. The Chair recapped some work, including the workflow and renaming of forms. When can this be shared with the full committee? Seeing the workflow would help with the Data Advisory Committee feedback. Staff said presenting the workflow again can be considered. The Vice Chair recommended one slide, but not a full presentation, at the next full Committee meeting.

## 3. Two Year Living Donor Exclusion Criteria Monitoring Report

No decisions were made.

### Summary of Presentation:

Staff provided a recap of the policy change, Modify Living Donor Exclusion Criteria, which included reviewing the 2014 policy for relevancy. Major changes include changes to the malignancy exclusion and the change to diabetes exclusion. Please see slides or read policy for details. These changes expanded living donation for candidates with a history of malignancy or diabetes. The policy change also clarified language related to coercion and valuable consideration.

The policy change did not include data collection and the current data collection project complements this policy change. Data on cohorts were reviewed since the 7/26/2022 implementation. Staff commented that acquiring follow up time seems to take a very long time. Covid has impacted the data, too, depressing the numbers of living donors.

First, staff reviewed data from time of donation and compared data before and after the policy change for both kidney and liver living donors. It is important to take the data with a grain of salt, due to potential data entry error. It appears diabetes after policy implementation increased but it is indeterminate what type. Malignancy remained at about the same rate pre and post policy change. There was an increase in selection of "other" malignancy and this might be something the committee should review.

Six month living donor outcomes data was reviewed and includes data on the first 18 months of the pre and post policy change era. For diabetes, the numbers are small, but there was follow up by cohorts in both, except for one donor post policy change. Most Kidney donors were in communication with their transplant centers one year one. No tumors were reported 6 months or one year after donation.

There was a slight increase in diabetic donors and a small increase in donors with malignancy. It continues to be difficult to collect information on diabetic candidates.

### Summary of discussion:

The chair requested a data request of what "other" could mean.

The chair feels this report justifies the current data project. Having long term living donor data informs policy.

Is there data suggesting donors were on insulin when donating? Yes, one donor in the pre policy era. Staff thinks that the majority of folks on insulin or something else were in the post policy change era.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- JANUARY 8, 2025

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Aneesha Shetty
  - Alexandra Shingina
  - Annie Doyle
  - Anita Patel
  - Ashtar Chami
  - Danielle Reuss
  - Milton Mitchell
  - Michael Chua
  - Steve Gonzalez
  - Tiffany Caza
  - Trysha Galloway
  - Frankie McGinnis
  - Laura Butler
  - Nancy Marlin
  - Ginger Ireland-Hoffman
  - Dylan Adamson
- **SRTR Representatives**
  - Avery Cook
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - None
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Kieran McMahon
  - Sam Weiss
  - Cole Fox
  - Sara Langham
- **Other**
  - Krista Lentine