

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S
Meeting Summary
October 15, 2024
Conference Call**

**Peter Stock, MD, Chair
Cynthia Forland, Ph.D., Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Management of International Living Donors in the U.S Subcommittee met via WebEx teleconference on 10/15/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project progress update & next steps

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

1. Project progress update & next steps

The Subcommittee was provided with a project update on, *Management of International Living Donors in the U.S*, including the project progress, timeline, and next steps. The goal of the project is to provide transplant programs with strategies and practices for evaluating international living donors in the U.S. Additionally, the subcommittee reviewed the proposed practices for addressing barriers related to evaluating international living donors that were included in the guidance document and discussed the following questions:

- Do you agree with the recommendations currently identified?
- Do you feel that there is an appropriate level of consistency between the different sections in how they approach the barrier and provide recommendations?

The purpose of this review is to get an idea of the proposed practices transplant programs may consider regarding the evaluation of a potential international living donors to ensure that the proposed practices are within the scope of the OPTN and provide a consistent structure for identifying strategies to address the barriers. are outlined consistently within each of the subsections of the document.

Summary of discussion:

This was not an agenda item that required a decision.

The Chair inquired if the contractor staff will be involved with reviewing and editing the project guidance document to ensure cohesiveness and accuracy. Staff replied that there is a group of personnel who will review and edit the document, including staff from UNOS research, policy and legal team. Review of the guidance document will be conducted ahead of the guidance document being reviewed by the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee and ultimately approved by the OPTN Executive Committee and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

While reviewing the proposed practices for addressing barriers related to the evaluation of potential international living donors, staff noted that changes may be made to the document in order to reflect the appropriate use of UNOS vs OPTN, identifying a change from “UNOS policy” to “OPTN policy”.

Regarding one of the proposed practices, stated that “transplant programs to provide health insurance to all living donors regardless of legal status for complications related to the donor procedure, a member inquired how a program would provide insurance”. A member responded that at his program, programs may provide health insurance for donor related complications. He shared that his program provides health insurance for non-citizen resident children whose parents cannot donate because they are not U.S citizen and therefore does not have emergent access to an emergency room if complications related to the surgery occurred. He stated that programs could make an effort to cover costs related to the donor complication post-transplant. The type of insurance that could be given to the donor depends on the transplant program and location. The Vice-Chair commented that the proposed practice could be worded differently where it's not as restrictive. A member mentioned that the National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) operates a nationwide system that provides reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses, lost wages, and dependent care expenses to people being evaluated for and/or undergoing living organ donation. Members continued to discuss potential language for the proposed practices.

Next steps:

Contractor staff will review and edit the draft guidance document.

Upcoming Meeting

- TBD

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Cynthia Forland
 - George Bayliss
 - Nancy Marlin
 - Peter Stock
 - Stephanie Little
 - Taryn Shappell
 - Manida Wungiranirun
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Penni McMahan
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Avery Cook
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Alex Carmack
 - Cole Fox
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Rebecca Murdock
- **Other Attendees**