

OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)

Meeting Summary

April 14, 2020

Conference Call with GoToTraining

Lisa Stocks, RN, MSN, FNP, Chair

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Introduction

The Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) met by conference call via Citrix GoToTraining on April 14, 2020, and discussed the following agenda items in open session:

1. Membership Requirements Revision Project
2. COVID-19 Updates

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

1. Membership Requirements Revision Project

Staff provided a brief update on the project plan. The Committee reviewed the recommended revisions to bylaw language for Appendix A: *Membership Application and Review* and Appendix B: *Membership Requirements for Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs)* and endorsed the proposed language revisions by unanimous vote. Additional internal staff and key external stakeholder review of the language will be conducted prior to finalizing the language for public comment and review by the Committee at its June 2020 conference call.

2. COVID-19 Updates

Staff reminded MPSC members of an email distributed to the committee on Friday, April 10, 2020 that outlined several time-limited emergency changes to member monitoring. Key changes include

- suspending functional inactivity reviews,
- placing a temporary hold on reviews of patient notification of extended waiting list inactivity and transplant program inactivation, and
- suspending reviews of living donor follow up and transplant recipient follow up data submissions.

These suspensions are scheduled to last through September 30, 2020, will be routinely evaluated and may be extended past September 30, if needed. MPSC leadership presented these changes to the OPTN Executive Committee on April 3, 2020.

Staff also discussed changes to MPSC processes approved by MPSC leadership. These changes were implemented to decrease the burden on MPSC committee members' workload during the COVID-19 national emergency, including:

- increasing the use of informational and consent agendas,
- providing additional staff recommendations for certain case types,
- batching cases that are posted for MPSC votes,
- assigning additional MPSC reviewers to cases requiring votes and

- prioritizing informal discussions and case reviews that involve ongoing patient safety issues.

The Committee then discussed the following topics relating to the COVID-19 national emergency:

- clarifying whether patients who are inactive on the waitlist due to COVID precautions will continue to accrue wait time according to applicable policies
- how the MPSC will transition back into reviews of programs' functional inactivity. Specifically, a Committee member recommended the MPSC consider granting programs sufficient time after the pandemic to return to expected levels and consider different time frames for different transplant program types.
- what kind of guidance the MPSC and OPTN can and should provide to transplant programs regarding clinical practices during the COVID-19 national emergency and the impact the pandemic may have on member outcome reviews. The Committee leadership reiterated that the MPSC will evaluate its process for reviewing member outcomes, including utilizing applicable COVID data to adjust its review process as appropriate. The MPSC will also consider the impact of COVID-19 as a mitigating factor as needed.
- Providing updated patient notification templates to that incorporate special COVID-19 circumstances, such as the potential inability to transfer to another transplant program during the national pandemic.
- the need to remind the community that the MPSC is a body of peers from within the donation and transplantation community and that deviations from OPTN requirements will be evaluated in the context of the circumstances that have arisen due to this national crisis.

Upcoming Meetings

- May 21, 2020, Conference Call, 2-4pm, ET
- June 29, 2020, Conference Call, 2-4pm, ET
- July 21-23, 2020, Chicago, IL
- October 27-29, 2020, Chicago, IL