

**OPTN Policy Oversight Committee
Meeting Summary
June 13, 2024
Teleconference
Jennifer Prinz, BSN, MPH, Chair
Erika Lease, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Policy Oversight Committee met via teleconference on 06/13/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Project: Re-evaluation of Deceased Donor Testing Requirements
2. New Project: Update and Improve Efficiency in Living Donor Data Collection
3. The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. New Project: Re-evaluation of Deceased Donor Testing Requirements

The Committee reviewed the following project: *Re-evaluation of Deceased Donor Testing Requirements*.

Presentation Summary:

This project is intended to increase efficiency in the organ offer process by ensuring appropriate and adequate deceased donor testing information is available at the time of offer. The Operations & Safety Committee will re-evaluate policies related to deceased donor testing requirements to identify what testing criteria (if any) are outdated/no longer relevant and to understand better processes related to deceased donor testing and propose modifications to current policy.

Summary of Discussion:

A UNOS staff member clarified that the estimates presented to the Policy Oversight Committee are for UNOS staff hours and resources only. Volunteer hours are not included in these estimates.

Four key metrics were discussed:

- Decrease in the time from donor added to first non-bypass response
- Decrease in offer evaluation times from electronic offer to final response
- No increase in the rate of missing essential tests
- Decrease in the proportion of critical test results post-acceptance

A member raised concerns about the first two metric's ability to accurately measure the project's impact. The Operations & Safety Committee will reconsider metrics one and two to find more clearly measurable alternatives.

Overall, the project was supported with acknowledgment of its importance.

Vote:

Does the Committee recommend approval of new project to Executive Committee?

13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention

Next Steps:

The project will be reviewed by the Executive Committee for approval.

2. New Project: Update and Improve Efficiency in Living Donor Data Collection

The Committee reviewed the following project: *Update and Improve Efficiency in Living Donor Data Collection*.

Presentation Summary:

This project's purpose is to understand the barriers to access living donation and the long-term outcomes, risks, and benefits by updating living donor data collection. The OPTN will register living donor candidates and collect donation decision information. Subsequently, the OPTN will perform follow-up of living donors for one year. After this initial year, the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients Living Donor Collective registry will perform lifelong follow-up of the living donors and living donor candidates. Additionally, the project includes necessary updates to living donor data collection instruments, some of which have not been updated since 2006.

Summary of Discussion:

A member explained that the Living Donor Collective project is transitioning from a pilot phase to a national scale. This expansion aims to provide more robust data on living donors and candidates. SRTR has shown good response rates (up to 80 percent) with living donor candidates during the pilot phase. They've developed methods to maintain contact with donors using various communication channels. For non-donors (candidates who don't proceed to donation), there's currently no requirement for transplant programs to follow up. SRTR will take on this responsibility through the Living Donor Collective.

A member pressed that there was a need for more comprehensive data, particularly on endpoints like progression to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) among donors. SRTR is working on accessing various data sources to track these outcomes. A member suggested that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) should share data to enable more robust data collection. There was a suggestion that the Ethics Committee could potentially collaborate on this project, as they've been working on barriers to access for living donations.

The definition of a "living donor candidate" was discussed after a member asked to have that be defined in the discussion. It was determined to be someone who begins the evaluation process in person, rather than anyone who merely contacts the program. The rationale for using non-donors as a comparison group is that they represent a more appropriate control than the general population, as they've self-selected to be potential donors but didn't proceed for various reasons.

SRTR is taking a multi-pronged approach to follow-up, including direct access to donors, data mergers from various sources, and novel data linkages to track outcomes that living donors care about long-term. This discussion highlights the ongoing efforts to improve data collection and follow-up for both living donors and candidates, with the aim of better understanding long-term outcomes and improving the living donation process.

Vote:

Does the Committee recommend approval of new project to Executive Committee?

12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention

Next Steps:

The project will be reviewed by the Executive Committee for approval.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- July 11, 2024
- July 25, 2024

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Jennifer Prinz
 - Erika Lease
 - Lori Markham
 - Arpita Basu
 - Christine Brenner
 - Gerald Morris
 - Jesse Schold
 - JD Menteer
 - Kim Koontz
 - Lisa Stocks
 - Rachel Engen
 - Shimul Shah
 - Stephanie Pouch
 - Stevan Gonzalez
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adriana Alvarez
 - Shelley Tims Grant
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Ajay Israni
 - Jon Snyder
 - Caitlyn Nystedt
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Viktoria Filatova
 - Cole Fox
 - Eric Messick
 - James Alcorn
 - Kayla Temple
 - Kieran McMahon
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Rebecca Goff
 - Roger Brown
 - Sara Langham
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Kimberly Uccellini