

**OPTN Data Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
May 13, 2024  
Teleconference**

**Sumit Mohan, M.D, M.P.H., Chair  
Jesse Schold, PhD., M.Stat., Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN Data Advisory Committee met via teleconference on 05/13/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review 24-month Refusal Code Monitoring report (final monitoring report)

### **1. Follow-Up: Strategic Plan Discussion**

The OPTN Contractor reviewed and discussed the 24-month Refusal Code Monitoring report.

#### Data summary:

On December 2, 2021, OPTN changed the options listed in organ offer refusal code dropdowns in response to the Data Advisory Committee feedback and effort. Prior to the change “Donor age or quality” accounted for the majority of refusals entered by centers for organ offer refusals. However, lack of specificity in refusal code options meant understanding drivers of organ refusal was not possible using these data.

The goal of the project was to increase donor and recipient matching by providing more relevant and granular options within the refusal reason data. More detailed information is important because the refusal reasons are used for quality improvement, retrospective reviews of policy changes, and real-time decision-making. The actions taken include revising options that are more relevant, discrete, and mutually exclusive, to promote the collection of more actionable data and to provide second refusal code field to capture more than one response when multiple factors drive refusal decision.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Chair advised that the new more granular refusal codes have provided better insight into reasons for organ offer declines compared to the previous broad "quality" bucket. This is seen as a positive step. However, there is still room for improvement in understanding the specific drivers behind declines and making the data more actionable.

Some potential next steps mentioned: review and refine the refusal code options further to ensure they capture reasons accurately. Provide feedback reports to transplant centers on their own decline patterns using these codes. Consider how the codes/reasons may need to be explained to patients in the new mandatory model increasing organ transplant transparency. Explore how the data can inform filter choices, clinical decisions, and filter development.

There is a recognition that while more granular data is helpful, it needs to be operationalized and translated into actionable improvements for it to provide maximum value. Overall, this is seen as an important first step, but an ongoing process is needed of iterating and improving the refusal codes based on their utility in driving positive change. Determining the next concrete actions needed to

continue improving the usefulness of the data and prioritizing such actions among the Committee's other activities and projects will be a key focus for the Committee going forward. In summary, the new codes provided better insight but further refinements and determining specific actionable uses of the data are important next steps identified in the discussion.

Next steps:

Discuss the 24-month Refusal Code Monitoring report in the upcoming Fall (date to be determined) in person meeting.

**Upcoming Meeting(s)**

- June 10, 2024

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Sumit Mohan
  - Rebecca Baranoff
  - Jamie Bucio
  - Kate Giles
  - Paul MacLennan
  - Christine Maxmeister
  - Meghan Muldoon
  - Hellen Oduor
  - Jennifer Peattie
  - Julie Prigoff
  - Alicia Skeen
  - Allen Wagner
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Adrianna Alvarez
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Avery Cook
  - Ajay Israni
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Brooke Chenault
  - Huong Cunningham
  - Kevin Daub
  - Viktoria Filatova
  - Courtney Jett
  - Morgan Jupe
  - Eric Messick
  - Lauren Mooney
  - Nadine Rogers
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Holly Sobczak
  - Kim Uccellini
  - Steve Wendt
  - Anne Zehner
- **Other**
  - Cassie Hertert