

OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee

Meeting Summary

July 17, 2025

Conference Call

Christine Brenner, RN, BSN, CPTC, CCTC, Chair

Heather Bastardi, RN, MSN, CPNP, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Transplant Coordinators Committee (“the Committee”, “TCC”) met via Webex on 07/17/25 to discuss the following agenda items:

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

1. OPTN Updates
2. *Require Patient Notification for Waitlist Status Change* - Data
3. Data Advisory Committee Update
4. Other Projects

1. OPTN Updates

The Committee did not make any decisions.

Summary of Presentation:

Staff presented information about Human Resources and Services Administration directives to the OPTN including normothermic regional perfusion, donation after cardiac death, rabies transmission, and allocation out of sequence. Staff also gave an update on the new OPTN Board of Directors term, as well as provided information on the pause on continuous distribution work.

Summary of Discussion:

The Committee did not have any discussion.

2. *Require Patient Notification for Waitlist Status Change* - Data

The Committee did not make any decisions.

Summary of Presentation:

Based on previous Committee discussions, staff showed additional data and inquiries for community feedback that had been added into the *Require Patient Notification for Waitlist Status Change* proposal. The data covered the average status changes per year waiting per organ, 2013-2022. This data was based on a 2023 OPTN Patient Affairs Committee data request. Inclusion of this data in the proposal was aimed at understanding potential burden of the notification requirements and whether notifications need to be written or only documented.

New community questions added to the proposal included:

- "Do community members think that written notification is necessary, or would documentation of notifications, including conversations, be sufficient?"
- "The TCC is asking the community for feedback regarding whether notification needs to be in a written format or whether it can be communicated through phone or conversation and documented in the candidate's record. This reflects feedback from the Transplant Administrators Committee (TAC), which noted that if candidates have several status changes within a short timeframe, it may cause an influx of notifications."

Summary of Discussion:

A member suggested the data would need to be extrapolated and applied to individual programs for burden estimation. Another member stated that the number for kidney waitlist status changes seemed high, while another member responded that these numbers include inactivations based on incomplete workups. They continued that liver may appear high because of Adult MELD Exceptions for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC).

Next Steps:

Aforementioned data and questions will be included in the Committee's OPTN Public Comment proposal as a request for community feedback.

3. Data Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The Committee decided that the Operations Standardization Checklist can serve as a guide for project workgroup members.

The Committee decided TCC could have optional check-in times for projects to review checklist

Summary of Presentation:

Staff showed feedback from the Data Advisory Committee's liaison considerations about combining the DAC's data review checklist and the TCC's Operations Standardization Checklist:

- DAC and TCC checklist may have overlap, but checklists serve different purposes, so combining isn't necessary
 - TCC checklist is important earlier in the development process
 - DAC check-ins only cover data-collection projects

Staff presented the following decisions for members to make regarding checklist implementation:

- Decision point: Checklist could serve as a guide for project workgroup members
 - Some project workgroups have TCC members to provide feedback
- Decision point: TCC meetings can include requests for project reviews with other Committees
 - TCC could have optional check-in times for projects to review checklist, especially for projects without TCC workgroup members

Summary of Discussion:

A member responded that the checklist should not be overly prescriptive, however, they have seen positive influences and changes from coordinator feedback in project implementation processes. A member stated that they believe the checklist to be important and it shouldn't be looked at as burdensome. They continued that this checklist gives members insight into policy processes they may not otherwise have considered, which can make for meaningful discussions and considerations.

A member suggested that the Committee speak to the Policy Oversight Committee about this tool.

Next steps:

The Committee will be using the checklist in upcoming project reviews.

4. Other Projects

The Committee did not make any decisions.
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Summary of Discussion:

Staff asked if members would be interested in possible education initiatives based on feedback from TCC leadership. The Chair said that coordinators can serve as subject matter experts to move forward education on operationalization. The Chair said this could include OPTN Learning Management System, and another member added that the Committee could work to create patient-facing materials. A member stated that they'd be interested in learning more about backup offers, and another member responded that the Liver Committee has commented on this in modifying *OPTN Policy 5.6.C Organ Offer Acceptance Limit*. Members also showed interest in joining the OPTN Allocation out of Sequence workgroup being formed by the OPTN Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meeting

- July 17, 2025

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Kati Robinson
 - Robin Petersen-Webster
 - Ashley Cardenas
 - Karl Neumann
 - Whitney Holland
 - Brandy Baldwin
 - Eve Cabatan
 - Anne O'Boye
 - Christine Brenner
 - Katherine Meneses
 - Kenny Laferriere
 - Heather Bastardi
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Jamie Panko
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Cole Fox
 - Ross Walton