

## OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee

### Meeting Summary

January 23, 2025

Conference Call

Rachel Engen, MD, Chair  
Neha Bansal, MD, Vice Chair

### Introduction

The Pediatric Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 01/23/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review of Joint MPSC Referral: *Evaluate and Improve Pediatric Heart Data Collection*
2. Open Forum

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

#### **1. Review of Joint MPSC Referral: *Evaluate and Improve Pediatric Heart Data Collection***

In December 2024, the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) referred a project idea to the Pediatric and Heart Transplantation Committees. The referral originated from a discussion during the MPSC meeting on November 6, 2024.<sup>1</sup>

Overview of project referral:

- **Status:** Project idea
- **Project type:** Data collection
- **Purpose:** Evaluate and improve the data collection for pediatric heart transplant candidates to more accurately predict pre-transplant mortality rates
- **Urgency level:** Moderate
- **Collaborating Committees:** Heart, MPSC

Summary of discussion:

No final decisions were made. The Committee agreed with the need to evaluate pediatric heart data collection and the urgency level assigned by MPSC.

There was an overview of the MPSC referral process to orient Committee members. Guest presenters from the MPSC and Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) provided background and context from the recent MPSC discussion. Committee members asked clarifying questions about the short-term solution proposed by SRTR and the pre-transplant mortality model, more generally. The SRTR representative explained aspects of the methodology associated with this modeling, as well as the rationale behind the chosen short-term solution.

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<sup>1</sup> OPTN MPSC, November 6-8, 2024 Meeting Summary, [https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/pw0bcgvj/20241106\\_mpsc\\_meeting-summary\\_public.pdf](https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/pw0bcgvj/20241106_mpsc_meeting-summary_public.pdf). See: Agenda item 2 for background information.

The Committee agreed with the need to evaluate pediatric heart data collection and the urgency level assigned by MPSC. Improvements to pediatric heart data collection may better inform pre-transplant mortality models on the risk for the sickest pediatric heart candidates and those with anatomical differences. Members discussed the possibility that some missingness for these variables is due to idiosyncratic events at transplant hospitals (e.g., value not reported due to logistical barriers, or variable center practices surrounding right heart catheterization [RHC]). The project may assist with a broader understanding of why these values are not reported. Overall, the Committee's interest in this project stems from the need to enhance the accuracy, reliability, and fairness of pre-transplant mortality models and program evaluations, ultimately improving outcomes for pediatric heart transplant patients.

Next steps:

Stakeholder committees will evaluate current work to determine prioritization and potential timelines for a project to evaluate and improve pediatric heart data collection. Committee leadership will communicate with the Heart Transplantation Committee to formulate a response to the MPSC regarding the referral.

**2. Open Forum**

There were no open forum speakers.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- February 27, 2025, teleconference, 4-5 PM ET

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Rachel Engen
  - Neha Bansal
  - Aaron Wightman
  - Gonzalo Wallis
  - Jennifer Vittorio
  - JoAnn Morey
  - Sonya Kirmani
  - Meelie Debroy
  - Shawn West
  - Katrina Fields
  - Jill McCardel
  - Melissa McQueen
  - Reem Raafat
  - Emily Perito
  - Namrata Jain
  - Carol Wittlieb-Weber
  - Woodlhey Ambroise
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - N/A
- **SRTR Representatives**
  - Avery Cook
  - Grace Lyden
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Leah Nunez
  - Dzhuliyana Handarova
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Betsy Gans
  - Niyati Upadhyay
- **Other attendees**
  - Dipankar Gupta (visiting member of the MPSC)