

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee

Meeting Summary

July 20, 2023

Conference Call

PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC Chair

Lori Markham, RN, MSN, CPTC, CCRN, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee met via Citrix GoTo Meeting on 07/20/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Regional Meeting Prep
2. Committee Orientation
3. Reminders

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

1. Regional Meeting Prep

Staff presented the regional meeting slides for the Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limits proposal and solicited feedback and questions from the Committee members.

Summary of discussion:

The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the scenario where organ allocation inefficiency is diminished when a transplant program holds two primary acceptances for one candidate. The Committee is proposing a modification to the policy that will only allow a transplant hospital to have one organ offer acceptance for each organ type. Current policy allows transplant hospitals to accept two organ offers for each organ type. It is important for Committee members to emphasize during their presentation that the current limit, as well as the proposed limit, do not prevent transplant hospitals from receiving and responding to additional offers, including entering a provisional yes.

On the "Rationale" slide, the Vice Chair recommended saying "when transplant programs turn down one of their two acceptances late in the process, it creates logistical challenges for OPOS *and other transplant programs.*" Staff affirmed that this will be added to the slide.

The Vice Chair received feedback during the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) meeting that the OPTN Liver and Intestinal Transplantation Committee voiced their unanimous opposition to the proposal. The Vice Chair added that during the POC meeting, a member of the OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee said their committee unanimously opposed the proposal and felt that it should only be applicable to the liver community. The Vice Chair noted that the POC supported moving this proposal forward to public comment for the July-September 2023 cycle.

A member said when they met with several individuals from transplant programs, there was overwhelming opposition and although the Committee is concerned about how accepting two organ offers negatively impacts OPOs, other people who are not OPOs find it irrelevant. The member suggested making the presentation more patient focused, as they think this will capture the attention of individuals outside of OPOs. The Vice Chair agreed with making the wording of the presentation more patient-focused. A member suggested changing the presentation to say that "multiple organ offer

acceptances challenges the logistics for everybody.” Another member recommended saying that “it creates challenges for donor recovery and transplant centers, as well as organ recipients.” Another member recommended saying “system challenges” and using bullet points to capture the suggested information. A member agreed and asked if non-use data was relative to this issue. Staff said that discard rates have not increased based on this.

A member who is a liver transplant surgeon says that multiple acceptance behaviors create a lot of unexpected problems, including logistical issues. A member said they think removing the part of the presentation where logistical challenges for OPOs are discussed, as they feel that others do not care about this aspect. The Chair said he uses the phrase “it creates friction in the system and everyone else suffers because one center changes their decision late in the process” when describing this issue.

A member asked if data were broken down by region, as it may be useful to present region-specific data during regional meetings, however research staff said regional data was not analyzed, but said they would see if it were possible to do so now. A member suggested framing the issue as an unintended consequence rather than an abuse of the system, as current policy enables transplant centers to accept multiple organ offers.

Next steps:

The Chair and Vice Chair will review the regional meeting presentation before sharing with the rest of the Committee and posting it to the OPTN website.

2. Committee Orientation

Staff presented orientation slides that covered the following topics:

- OPTN Governance
 - Board of Directors
 - Committees
- Committee Member Influence and Involvement
 - Meetings
 - Policy development
- Committee Member Commitment
 - Member expectations
 - Regional meetings
- Projects
 - Current OPO Committee projects
 - OPO collaboration on other projects
- Committee Support System
 - Leadership
 - UNOS staff
 - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) staff
 - Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) staff

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, August 17, 2023- 1 pm EDT (Teleconference)
- Tuesday, September 19, 2023 (Houston, TX)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Dan DiSante
 - Donna Smith
 - Doug Butler
 - Greg Veenendaal
 - Jim Sharrock
 - Judy Storfjell
 - Kevin Koomalsingh
 - Kurt Shutterly
 - Lee Nolen
 - Lori Markham
 - Micah Davis
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Samantha Endicott
 - Sharyn Sawczak
 - Stephen Gray
 - Theresa Daly
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Daniel Thompson
 - Jim Bowman
 - Kala Rochelle
 - Mesmin Germain
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Jon Snyder
 - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Katrina Gauntt
 - Kayla Balfour
 - Kayla Temple
 - Kevin Daub
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Robert Hunter
 - Ross Walton