

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee  
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S  
Meeting Summary  
October 17, 2023  
Conference Call**

**Pramod Bonde, MD, Chair  
Peter Stock, MD, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN Management of International Living Donors in the U.S Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via Citrix Webex teleconference on 10/17/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Discussion: Examples of Exploitation, Inducement, and Coercion

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

### **1. Discussion: Example of Exploitation, Inducement, and Coercion**

The Subcommittee is divided into five groups: communications, logistics, donor follow-up, undocumented non-U.S. citizens/non-U.S. Residents (NCNR), and risk of exploitation, inducement, and coercion. The risk of exploitation, inducement, and coercion group met to continue their discussion about what information should be included in their section and how it should be organized. This includes defining and providing examples of exploitation, inducement, coercion, and the responsibilities of the transplant program to the potential donor (duty of care).

#### Summary of discussion:

This was not an agenda item that required a decision; there was no decision made by the Subcommittee.

A member suggested creating a comprehensive example list of exploitation, inducement, and coercion challenges that may arise when a transplant program is evaluating a potential donor. She stated that there may be certain circumstances where the examples are not categorized as exploitation, inducement, or coercion but are relevant to the topic and should be addressed in a separate category, such as duty of care. She noted that access to culturally specific living donor advocates and ensuring follow-up care for the donor are two essential topics. Another member agreed and commented that the potential living donor needs to understand what they are consenting to before proceeding with the evaluation process. Also, ensuring they have appropriate access to follow-up care is essential.

A member noted that in previous meetings, there were discussions about when to begin the evaluation process; she explained that some of the preliminary conversations regarding the evaluation process should occur before the potential donor travels to the U.S.; this would avoid travel expenses associated with the process. The member added that these preliminary discussions would include concerns that could arise before the potential donor interacts with the transplant program in person. She also pointed out the need to conduct an assessment to determine if there are concerns about the donor being exploited, coerced, or induced.

Members also discussed the transplant program's responsibilities to the potential donor. Staff inquired about examples of the transplant program's obligations to the donor. A member replied, coordinating the collection of lab tests and medical information from the donor and discussing potential travel expenses associated with the process. Another member noted that it would be essential to understand the practices of programs with experience in recovering international donors so that it may be incorporated into guidance for centers that may not have much experience with international living donation.

Next steps:

The risk of exploitation, inducement, and coercion group will continue to discuss their section of the project.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- TBD

## **Attendance**

- **Subcommittee Members**
  - Carrie Thiessen
  - Cynthia Forland
  - Abby Ruiz
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Tamika Watkins
  - Joann White
- **Other Attendees**