

OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee

Meeting Summary

May 29, 2024

Conference Call

Zoe Stewart Lewis, M.D., Chair

Scott Lindberg, M.D., Vice Chair

Introduction

The Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) met via Webex in both open and closed session on May 29, 2024, to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Membership Requirements Revisions
2. Membership Requirements Revisions to Appendix C
3. Performance Monitoring Criteria Changes
4. Membership Issue

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

1. Membership Requirements Revisions

OPTN staff gave an overview of the project's current status. The Membership Requirements Revision (MRR) Subcommittee voted at its May 23, 2024, meeting to recommend to the Committee that the proposal be released to summer 2024 public comment. OPTN staff reviewed the contents of the Update Membership Requirements and Application Review Process proposal. The Committee then voted on whether to release the proposal to summer 2024 public comment.

Summary of Discussion:

Decision #1: The Committee did not support the removal of the transplant program requirement for designation of a program director and amended the proposal to retain the requirement.

Decision #2: The Committee voted to approve the release of the Update Membership Requirements and Application Review Process proposal, as amended, to summer 2024 public comment by a vote of 27 For, 0 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

Decision #1: The Committee did not support the removal of the transplant program requirement for designation of a program director and amended the proposal to retain the requirement.

Members expressed concerns about removing the transplant program director requirement, noting that regulatory personnel requirements are often needed for transplant program administration to justify protected time for staff to hospital leadership for program leadership roles. Staff explained that the original impetus for the removal was the duplicative nature of the program director's requirement. An analysis of individuals designated in the program director role found that approximately 95% of the designated individuals were also designated as the primary surgeon or primary physician for the transplant program. Additionally, staff noted that the bylaws place the responsibilities for oversight of program operations and compliance with OPTN obligations with the primary transplant surgeon and primary physician, not the program director.

Members commented that as there is increased scrutiny on time allocation of staff in the transplant community, the transplant program director requirement should be retained in the bylaws and suggested that community feedback be solicited on the requirement as part of public comment. The proposal was amended to reflect this decision.

Decision #2: The Committee voted to approve the release of the Update Membership Requirements and Application Review Process proposal, as amended, to summer 2024 public comment by a vote of 27 For, 0 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

A member commented on the need to develop robust membership requirements for business members. OPTN staff noted that a future phase of the project will focus on this in the context of potential third-party membership requirements and that another OPTN committee is also engaged in efforts to review these requirements.

2. Performance Monitoring Criteria Changes

OPTN staff gave an overview of the Committee's previous discussions on this topic to inform an SRTR staff presentation on potential changes to performance monitoring metrics criteria. The Committee decided at the April 23, 2024, meeting that any changes would be for adult transplant programs only. The aim of this meeting's discussion is to answer the following questions:

- Should a proposal be developed to change thresholds for post-transplant outcomes and/or offer acceptance?
- If so, what new thresholds should be proposed, and what is the purpose and explanation for how the proposal supports that purpose and the Committee's charge?
- If a proposal is not supported, what is the explanation of why the Committee is not moving forward with the proposal, and are there other options to support the Expedious Task Force initiatives?

SRTR staff presented data on the impact of flagging threshold changes to the 90-day post-transplant graft survival, 1-year post-transplant graft survival conditional on 90-day post-transplant graft survival and offer acceptance metrics. At its April 23, 2024, meeting, the Committee considered making the flagging threshold for graft failure less stringent and making the offer acceptance threshold more stringent. SRTR gave an overview of an exploratory tool based on data from the January 2024 program specific reports that show how the number and characteristics of the transplant programs that would have been flagged using various flagging thresholds; the tool will help the Committee see how potential metric changes would affect program reviews.

Summary of Discussion:

Decision #1: The Committee supports the development of a proposal to change the offer acceptance metric criteria with a vote of 12 For, 9 Against, and 1 Abstention.

Decision #2: The Committee supports the development of a proposal to change the post-transplant outcome metrics criteria with a vote of 18 For, 4 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

Decision #1: The Committee supports the development of a proposal to change the offer acceptance metric criteria with a vote of 12 For, 9 Against, and 1 Abstention.

Members commented on the newness of the offer acceptance metric, and questioned whether adjusting thresholds makes sense, but ultimately supported inclusion of changes to the criteria for this metric when the question was put to a vote.

Decision #2: The Committee supports the development of a proposal to change the post-transplant outcome metrics criteria with a vote of 18 For, 4 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

Members commented on the literature review presented at the May 23, 2024, meeting, noting that there was not much evidence that changing regulatory metrics alters program behavior in terms of accepting more organs, and questioned whether this approach will realize the goal of the Expedious Taskforce to increase the number of transplants, but still expressed support for developing a proposal.

The Committee Chair commented on potential patient safety concerns should the flagging thresholds be adjusted, concluding that Committee efforts tend to focus on the outliers who would likely still be flagged under the suggested more lenient thresholds. Committee members noted that they do not have significant concerns that serious patient safety issues will be missed so are comfortable with this potential change.

The incoming Chair encouraged members to consider Committee time and energy, and where it is best invested.

3. Membership Issue

The Committee considered a new pancreas transplant program application and recommended approval of Hospital's pancreas program application by the OPTN Board of Directors.

The motion was approved by a vote of 25 For, 0 Against, and 1 Abstention.

Upcoming Meetings

- June 28, 2024, 2-5pm, ET, Conference Call
- July 23-25, 2024, Detroit
- August 23, 2024, 1-4pm, ET
- September 27, 2024, 2-5pm, ET
- October 9, 2024, 3-6pm, ET
- November 6-8, 2024, times TBD, Virtual
- December 13, 2024, 2-5pm, ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alan Betensley
 - Kristine Browning
 - Anil Chandraker
 - Hannah Copeland
 - Chad Ezzell
 - Robert Fontana
 - Roshan George
 - Darla Granger
 - Dipankar Gupta
 - Shelley Hall
 - Robert Harland
 - Rich Hasz
 - Victoria Hunter
 - Michelle James
 - Peter Lalli
 - Raymond Lee
 - Carolyn Light
 - Scott Lindberg
 - Melinda Locklear
 - Maricar Malinis
 - Deborah McRann
 - Nancy Metzler
 - Cliff Miles
 - Saeed Mohammad
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Deidre Sawinski
 - Malay Shah
 - Zoe Stewart Lewis
 - J. David Vega
 - Mark Wakefield
 - Candy Wells
 - James Yun
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - James Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Kala Rochelle
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Jonathan Miller
 - Jon Snyder
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Anne Ailor
 - Stephanie Anderson
 - Sally Aungier
 - Matt Belton
 - Nadine Cahalan

- Elinor Carmona
- Robyn DiSalvo
- Laureen Edwards
- Katie Favaro
- Liz Friddell
- Jasmine Gaines
- Asia Harden
- Houlder Hudgins
- Elias Khalil
- Lee Ann Kontos
- Krissy Laurie
- Amy Minkler
- Heather Neil
- Jacqui O'Keefe
- Rob Patterson
- Liz Robbins Callahan
- Melissa Santos
- Laura Schmitt
- Sharon Shepherd
- Juanita Street
- Stephon Thelwell
- Marta Waris
- Betsy Warnick
- Trevi Wilson
- Claudia Woisard
- Emily Womble
- Karen Wooten
- Amanda Young
- **Other Attendees**
 - None