

## **OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**November 21, 2023**

### **Conference Call**

**Richard Daly, MD, Chair**

**J.D. Menteer, MD, Vice-Chair**

#### **Introduction**

The Heart Committee (“Committee”) met via WebEx teleconference on 11/21/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Final Values Prioritization Attribute (VPE) criteria and descriptions
2. Continuous Distribution (CD) of Hearts: Medical Urgency Rating Scale and Time on Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD)

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

#### **1. Final Values Prioritization Attribute (VPE) criteria and descriptions**

The Committee heard a presentation by the Chair on the values prioritization exercise (VPE) criteria, changes to rating scales, and the role of the community in providing feedback about rating scales in continuous distribution.

##### Summary of discussion:

The discussion started with the Chair confirming how the broad transplantation community would weigh into the VPE. Support staff noted that the patient profile criteria would seek to compare patients who have an LVAD to those who wait longer, and those that are biologically difficult to match candidates. Support staff for the Committee asked members whether there need to be changes to the descriptive information. A member needed clarification on how the Committee will measure the “expectation to survive.” The Chair noted that the community wanted to see the “expectation to survive” criteria added to the VPE, although there are mixed feelings from the Committee to the use of the criteria as it could potentially introduce bias. An SRTR staff member noted that the process for assessing this attribute would bring up similar concerns of extraneous factors contributing to the “expectation to survive” attribute that the Liver Committee discussed.

The Committee then moved to discussing the attribute of post-transplant survival. A member noted that ensuring that the attribute includes having the descriptor of “5 or more years” on the list would be best. Another member mentioned that insurance companies already ask for post-transplant survival data. It was mentioned that while developing their first iteration of a continuous distribution allocation framework, the Liver Committee had multiple discussions about whether or not to include post-transplant survival as an attribute. Ultimately, the Live Committee did not include it. Subsequently, there were questions from the community about how best to interpret the VPE results because respondents did not have the opportunity to indicate the weight that should be given to post-transplant survival as an attribute. It was also mentioned that as a result, the Liver Committee spent additional meetings discussing post-transplant survival and how it might be addressed that the Committee might not have otherwise had. HRSA staff noted that the Liver Committee’s concern about whether to include

it or not, primarily focused on how the attribute might best account for ‘frailty,’ something that the Heart Committee might not be as interested in, and therefore may not be as much of a challenge for heart. Support staff noted that the committee supported having post-transplant survival data. Support staff noted that this will be an iterative process with feedback from the community.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue discussing these points and prepare for public comment.

**2. Continuous Distribution (CD) of Hearts: Medical Urgency Rating Scale and Time on LVAD**

The Committee then discussed the updates on time on LVAD discussion and when the time would start.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair asked whether there are any questions or concerns with the time associated with LVAD, with many members noting that they supported the new resolution due to the inherent complexity of time on LVAD. The Chair noted that the term “status” will retire with the use of CD and noted that if a patient has an LVAD complication they would move up the scale with waiting time. The Committee then closed with making a note that the amend adult heart status 2 mechanical device requirements were reviewed by the OPTN Board as part of the 12/04 meeting. In addition, the Committee will meet again in January and prepare for the public comment cycle from 1/23/24 – 3/19/24

Next steps:

The Committee will meet again in December and continue discussions on CD of Hearts.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- December 6, 2023

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Richard Daly
  - Jondavid Menteer
  - Amrut Ambardekar
  - Jennifer Cowger
  - Timothy Gong
  - Glen Kelley
  - Cindy Martin
  - Eman Hamad
  - Fawwaz Shaw
  - Jennifer Carapellucci
  - John Nigro
  - Kim Baltierra
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Yoon Son Ahn
  - Gracy Lyden
  - Katie Siegert
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Eric Messick
  - Alex Carmack
  - Gabrielle Hibbert
  - Alina Martinez
  - Cole Fox
  - Kelsi Lindblad
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Sara Rose Wells
- **Other Attendees**
  - Samantha Taylor
  - Shelley Hall
  - Daniel Yip