

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee

Meeting Summary

January 19, 2023

Conference Call

Kurt Shutterly, RN, CPTC, Chair
PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, vice-Chair

Introduction

The OPO Committee (“Committee”) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 01/19/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Post Cross-Clamp Test Results Project
2. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Data Burden Estimate
3. Request for Volunteers – Discard Codes Project
4. OPTN Board of Directors Meeting Update
5. Reminders

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

1. Post Cross-Clamp Test Results Project

Information Technology (IT) staff presented an overview of this enhancement project that will allow organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to electronically notify transplant programs about culture results received following cross clamp or transplant.

Presentation summary:

IT staff explained that the current culture reporting process is inefficient and redundant that is repeated manually for each organ transplant. Additionally, OPO processes are not standardized.

The goal of the project is to provide a notification system that OPOs can initiate when results are obtained post cross-clamp that may affect recipient:

- Allow OPOs to notify transplant hospitals of test result(s): culture, pathology, and/or infectious disease
- Transplant hospitals to acknowledge that they have received notification and reviewed updated test result
- An audit log allowing OPOs to see when notifications are sent as well as when/if they have been acknowledged by transplant hospitals

IT staff noted this effort supports the requirements in *OPTN Policy 15.4: Host OPO Requirements for Reporting Post Procurement Test Results and Discovery of Potential Disease Transmissions*.

IT staff highlighted the steps OPOs use to send electronic notifications. OPOs can add comments and select which center to notify. The notification will be sent via email and text message to the transplant programs that received the organs from the donor.

Summary of discussion:

A member commented that communicating with the patient safety contact information can be challenging at times. He added that regardless of whether it's pre or post-transplant, the on-call person at the transplant programs should be contacted.

A member noted that due to the importance of the patient contact information, there is an opportunity to explore policies to further enforce keeping the contact information up to date. He further added that when this project was initially discussed six years ago, it was a safety project while now it is more about efficiency.

A member noted that her OPO spends a lot of time trying to get hold of the patient safety contact to ensure the information has been received. Additionally, if a transplant program gets a notification, it is not always clear that it is a positive culture result that needs to be addressed immediately.

A member suggested that a link be provided on the transplant center side so they can quickly acknowledge the electronic notification and review it. Another member asked if there was any burden on the OPO to verify the transplant center acknowledgement and review of the results. IT staff noted that if there is a repeat email that gets sent out if there is no response after 12 hours. A member suggested shortening the time from 12 hours to 6 hours while another member noted that 12 hours was originally selected to allow for overnight notifications.

A member asked if OPO staff gets notified when the results are acknowledged and reviewed. Another member responded that it is the OPO patient safety contact.

A member asked about the timeline for implementation. IT staff noted that work will begin during the summer of 2023 with implementation by the end of 2023.

2. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Data Burden Estimate

Data Governance staff provided an overview of the OMB process and why data burden estimates are being collected. This effort is a contract requirement to evaluate data burden for all OMB approved forms within the OPTN Computer System. Data Governance staff identified the *Organ Export Verification Form* as one that required OPO Committee consultation. Data Governance staff provided a snapshot of the form and asked members how long it takes to complete the form.

Summary of discussion:

A member commented that while her OPO is familiar with the form, it is sometimes difficult to find. She has downloaded a copy, so it is readily available to her staff.

Several members noted that the form is not frequently used, but the biggest gap in the process is a reminder that the form needs to be completed and submitted with 24 hours as outlined in policy.

A member noted that the form must be faxed, which is an outdated technology. He recommended creating a check box within the system to acknowledge that the match run has been exhausted before exporting organs outside the country, typically to Canada. A member also suggested that the form be uploaded as an attachment to fulfil the policy requirements.

Members agreed that it takes, on average, two minutes to complete this form.

3. Request for Volunteers – Discard Codes Project

Staff reminded the members about the discard codes project that is being evaluated by the OPTN Data Advisory Committee. Staff asked members to send an email if they are interested in participating in this effort.

4. OPTN Board of Directors Meeting Update

Staff presented an overview of the December 5, 2022, Board of Directors meeting.

Presentation Summary:

Staff noted that eleven policy proposals were approved by the Board. Staff also noted that there were several committee updates outlining various high priority work.

- Policy Oversight Committee
- Operations and Safety Committee
- Living Donor Committee
- Membership and Professional Standards Committee
- Data Advisory Committee
- Finance Committee
- Nominating Committee

Staff also noted that organ transportation was discussed, and the Board created breakout groups to discuss strategies. These groups reported back to the full Board following the breakout discussions.

Summary of Discussion:

Members did not have any questions or comments about the Board meeting. One member asked about the Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee's updates to the "Pathogens of Special Interest" list. Staff promised to get an update and respond to the member via email.

5. Reminders

Staff provided a reminder about the upcoming regional meeting schedule and where to register for the meetings. Staff also reminded members that the public comment period has started and noted that the committee will provide input on most of the proposals during upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Meeting

- February 16, 2023

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Bruce Nicely
 - Chad Ezzell
 - Clint Hostetler
 - David Marshman
 - Debra Cooper
 - Donna Smith
 - Doug Butler
 - Erin Halpin
 - Leslie McCloy
 - Malay Shah
 - Meg Rogers
 - Samantha Endicott
 - Sharyn Sawczak
 - Sue McClung
 - Larry Suplee
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adrianna Martinez
 - Jim Bowman
 - Mesmin Germain
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Nick Wood
 - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Robert Hunter
 - Katrina Gauntt
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Ross Walton
 - Nadine Hoffman
 - Suhuan Wang
 - Jonathan Chiep
 - Roger Vacovsky
 - Kevin Daub