

## **OPTN Executive Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**July 9, 2024**

**Webex**

**Richard Formica, MD, Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Executive Committee met via Webex teleconference on 07/09/2024 to discuss the following agenda item:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Committee Orientation
3. OPTN Comment on CMS Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model
4. Closed Session

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

### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

Richard Formica, Chair of the Executive Committee, welcomed the committee to their first meeting and presented the agenda. During the meeting, Dr. Formica updated the committee on security training requirements for members that access the OPTN Computer System and explained the ongoing attestations for OPTN members who access the OPTN Computer System. He shared that the training and attestation are policy requirements developed by the Network Operations Oversight Committee (NOOC) and approved by the Board in June 2023.

### **2. Committee Orientation**

OPTN contractor staff presented a brief orientation to the committee. Staff shared the authority by which the committee operates, the six pillars their work falls into, and an overview of the committee's planned work for the year to come. They shared that in the year to come, the committee will work on 2024-2027 Strategic Plan implementation, continue collaboration with the Expeditious Task Force, continue collaboration with the Policy Oversight Committee (POC), revisit the review of the OPTN Regions, and collaborate on data directives from HRSA.

#### Summary of Discussion:

Dr. Formica shared his plan for the committee to revisit the OPTN Regions in the next year and why this task is important for the entire transplant community.

### **3. OPTN Comment on CMS Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model**

OPTN contractor staff presented the background of the CMS Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model. They explained that the model is a proposed six-year mandatory model (2025-2030) that would provide incentives for transplant hospitals to promote the following goals:

- Maximize the use of deceased donor kidneys.
- Improve quality of care before, during and after transplantation.
- Identify more living donors and assist potential living donors through the donation process.

- Create great equity in access to a kidney transplant by addressing social determinants of health and other barriers to care.
- Improve care coordination and patient-centeredness in the kidney transplant process.
- Reduce Medicare expenditures.

Staff shared that the OPTN plans to submit a public comment on the model and shared the comment timeline. It was explained that the content of the letter is based on feedback from two listening sessions that CMS is hosting for the OPTN. The committee reviewed the key components included in the draft OPTN comment and were asked to provide feedback on the draft. Staff shared that the draft response included strong support for model goals while noting alignment with OPTN initiatives, commented on the unadjusted versus adjusted non-use rate, recommended changes to the achievement domain, suggested changes to quality domain, and commented on transparency requirements.

#### Summary of Discussion:

The committee discussed how the work of the Expedious Task Force and the proposed changes in the IOTA Model align with one another.

The committee made recommendations to enhance the OPTN's comment. The committee discussed financial incentives for members and encouraged CMS to analyze if the financial incentives and penalties are appropriate to drive the desired outcome. The committee discussed the burden on members, specifically related to increased staffing and resources needed for patient surveys and reporting requirements.

#### Next Steps:

The committee will submit a comment on behalf of the OPTN before the comment period ends on July 16, 2024.

#### **4. Closed Session**

The committee met in a closed session.

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Andrea Tietjen
  - Dianne LaPointe Rudow
  - Emily Blumberg
  - Erika Demars
  - George Surratt
  - Jen Lau
  - Jennifer Muriett
  - Lloyd Ratner
  - Macey Levan
  - Richard Formica
  - Silas Norman
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Frank Holloman
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Emy Trende
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Liz Robbins Callahan
  - Maureen McBride
  - Morgan Jupe
  - Susie Sprinson