

OPTN Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

August 18, 2025

Conference Call

Lisa Stocks, RN, MSN, FNP, Chair

Chris Sonnenday, MD, MHS, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Teams teleconference on 08/18/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and updates
2. New project ideas

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

1. Welcome and updates

OPTN Contractor staff (staff) shared updates on the Committee meeting cadence and introduced a new member to the Committee. Staff displayed the policy proposal timeline. Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) feedback on the proposal was minimal and the OPTN Board of Directors will vote on whether it and other proposals will go out for public comment. The Committee also received updates regarding the recent pause in continuous distribution (CD) work and directives from HRSA.

Summary of discussion:

A member sought further clarification regarding the cost of the proposal and whether that might impact it being released for public comment. The Chair clarified that some OPTN Board members raised concerns, including that it may be premature to pass a multi-organ allocation policy prior to the transition to continuous distribution (CD) and concerns about the cost of the MOT proposal. OPTN Board members stated that there are many projects and proposals competing for limited resources. The Co-Chair noted that they had clarified that if implemented, the multi-organ allocation tables could be updated as organs transition to CD. The Vice Chair noted that, even if the proposal is approved by the OPTN Board, implementation could be delayed due to costs and resource constraints.

A member asked how individuals would be selected for the various workgroups implementing HRSA directives. Staff shared that OPTN Committee members have been invited to join some workgroups. Another member sought clarification on who would present the proposal at OPTN Regional Meetings and to the other OPTN Committees. The Chair stated that the Co-Chairs are planning to present the proposal.

Next steps:

None identified.

2. New project ideas

The Committee discussed potential new projects.

Presentation:

The Co-Chair reviewed potential projects previously considered by the Committee:

- Medical eligibility criteria for multi-organ combinations without criteria (e.g. heart-lung, heart-liver, liver-lung)
- Safety net for multi-organ combinations without safety net (e.g. heart-lung, heart-liver, liver-lung)
- Vessel sharing/allocation
- Support other Committees as organ-specific allocation policies transition to CD
- Update multi-organ allocation policies as organ-specific allocation policies transition to CD
- Integrate vascularized composite allografts (VCA) into multi-organ policy
- Establish a Multi-Organ Review Board
- Multi-organ transplant performance monitoring and membership requirements

The Chair noted that the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) has a new project on multi-organ transplant performance monitoring and membership requirements. The Chair called for Committee members interested in joining an MPSC workgroup supporting this project.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair noted the opportunity to establish transparent and accountable eligibility criteria for multi-organ transplant, similar to criteria for heart-kidney, liver-kidney, and lung-kidney. They stated this could reduce center discretion around listing candidates for more than one organ. Additionally, safety net policies could be developed for patients who don't meet medical eligibility criteria but are at high risk of organ failure post-transplant. A member noted some controversy around listing for heart-lung transplant, especially around pulmonary hypertension cases where some argue for a double lung instead of heart-lung. The member suggested that medical eligibility criteria could help resolve and standardize such issues. Another member offered that different centers and surgeons have varying opinions. The member felt that establishing criteria for heart-lung, heart-liver, and lung-liver could prove controversial. The member added that safety-nets may not be appropriate for these combinations, noting that extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) for heart failure is not comparable to dialysis for kidney failure and that Fontan cases are similarly complex. As a next step, members requested data to better understand the volume of heart-lung, heart-liver, and lung-liver transplants and the potential impacts of adopting medical eligibility criteria for these combinations. Staff noted that the next monitoring report for the safety net policies is due in December and they will share that information when available.

Members discussed potential development of a Multi-Organ Review Board. A member, who is also on the Lung Review Board, stated that it already handles multi-organ exceptions related to lung. Another member noted that an MOT Review Board might overlap with the existing organ-specific review boards.

Members discussed vessel sharing in multi-organ transplants. A member noted that if an iliac vessel is not available for a pancreas transplant, the pancreas may go unused. They noted that sharing can be complicated where the liver and intestine are also available for donation. This issue has been raised with the OPTN Pancreas and Liver Committees, but these Committees felt that the issue could be better addressed by the MOT Committee. Members felt that this could be an impactful project that would strengthen patient safety. As a next step, they requested that staff review any current policy on vessel allocation.

Next steps:

- Committee members who wish to join the MPSC workgroup should email OPTN Contractor Staff

- Staff will provide data to better understand the volume of heart-lung, heart-liver, and lung-liver transplants and the potential impacts of adopting medical eligibility criteria for these combinations
- Staff will review any current policy or guidance on vessel allocation

Upcoming Meetings

- September 15, 2025

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Lisa Stocks (Co-Chair)
 - Chris Sonnenday (Vice Chair)
 - Marie Budev
 - Rocky Daly
 - Daniel DiSante
 - Jonathan Fridell
 - Jim Kim
 - Precious McCowan
 - Nicole Turgeon
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Avery Cook
 - Jon Miller
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Asma Ali
 - Tory Boffo
 - Amelia Devereaux
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Sarah Roache
 - Erin Schnellinger
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen