

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee

Meeting Summary

July 24, 2025

Conference Call

PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Lori Markham, RN, MSN, CCRN, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 07/24/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome
2. Machine Perfusion/Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Data Collection Update
3. Additional Updates
4. DCD (Donation after Circulatory Death) Directive Workgroup Update and Discussion

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

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

2. Machine Perfusion/Normothermic Regional Perfusion Data Collection Update

Presentation Summary

The Committee discussed the machine perfusion and NRP data collection proposal, including updates and plans for public comments. A regional meeting preparation call will be scheduled in advance of the regional meetings.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made regarding this agenda item.

There was no discussion regarding this agenda item.

3. Additional Updates

Presentation Summary

The Committee reviewed information on how to view critical comments and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) directives on the OPTN website. A brief overview of the Allocation Out of Sequence (AOOS), NRP, DCD Policy, and Rabies Transmission directives was provided to the Committee with requirements from each directive.

HRSA has issued a directive (effective July 1, 2025) regarding policy work related to Continuing Distribution (CD):

"As the OPTN undertakes actions to comply with HRSA's directive on allocation out of sequence (AOOS) remediation, HRSA has determined it is both prudent and responsible to pause new policy work related to CD to ensure that new AOOS policies are effective and evidence-based and ensure fairness in

the OPTN allocation system. Pausing all new work related to CD until the OPTN has addressed AOOS is a HRSA decision to ensure that when the OPTN makes a new allocation policy, it does so with transparency, robust, reliable data, and accountability to all patients the system is designed to serve.”

Based on this directive, all CD-related projects will be paused until further notice.

The Committee was provided an update on the new OPTN Board of Directors, who began their term on July 1, 2025, through a special election which concluded earlier in the spring. The previous Board of Directors, during their June 9 and June 10, 2025 meeting approved a resolution to discontinue non-critical meeting support for committees without active projects, exempting the Patient Affairs Committee (PAC) for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025.

The new OPTN President spoke to the Committee, expressing support for their work and the need for a strong partnership between the transplant community and the federal government during this transitional period. The OPTN President expressed a desire to work with OPTN members to learn more and welcomed questions from the Committee.

Summary of discussion:

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| No decisions were made regarding this agenda item. |
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The Chair and Vice Chair expressed gratitude for the OPTN President’s support and positive comments regarding OPOs and the vital work they do.

4. DCD Directive Workgroup Update and Discussion

Presentation Summary

Background

The Committee reviewed the HRSA Directive for OPTN DCD Policy Development project. The OPTN received a HRSA directive on May 28th, 2025¹, instructing the OPTN to propose policies within 180 days to focus on safeguarding Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD) patients and improving family communication.

The two main components of the project will be as follows:

1. Policy - DCD Procurement “Pause”
 - Process for when a pause in procurement efforts can be undertaken if there is concern for unrecognized neurological improvement or potential for a patient to experience pain in the act of procuring organs
2. Family Education/Information
 - Requirements for family information about DCD organ procurement to be provided at the time of organ donation authorization

Considerations for the DCD procurement pause include:

- Stakeholder empowerment to call for a pause
- Automatic triggers for a pause
- Requirements for informing legal next of kin, healthcare teams, and transplant centers
- Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) requirements before resuming procurement following a pause

¹ https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/j3zpoia2/opo-corrective-action-plan-and-optn-directive_5282025_redacted_508.pdf

- Data requirements to capture information about pauses
- Requirements for reporting to the OPTN within 24 hours

Considerations for the family education/information will include:

- Description of actions to be taken by the hospital and OPO if...
 - Patient does not expire within the operative time limit
 - Procurement attempts are aborted in the operating room
- Education is currently prevalent, but content/scope is variable and not addressed in OPTN policy
- Define elements that must be included, with involvement from relevant stakeholders (Organ Procurement Organizations Committee, Ethic Committee, Patient Affairs Committee, Community representatives)

The timeline for this project is as follows:

- July - November 2025 – Workgroup meetings
- November 24, 2025 – Finish policy proposal
- Special public comment (Dates – TBD)
- Target date for the OPTN Board of Directors approval (TBD)

Initial Meeting

The first Workgroup meeting focused on the key components within the HRSA directive, specifically the pause and family education components. The Workgroup intends to establish subgroups to work on these topics and begin drafting policy language during their next meeting, August 14, 2025.

Summary of discussion:

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| No decisions were made regarding this agenda item. |
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The Vice Chair asked Committee members to share family education material or pauses built into their own DCD processes if the members felt the information could contribute to the HRSA Directive for OPTN DCD Policy Development Workgroup's task.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 21, 2025

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Lori Markham
 - Micah Davis
 - Doug Butler
 - Kerri Jones
 - Shane Oakley
 - Ann Rayburn
 - Rachel Markowski
 - Judy Storfjell
 - Donna Smith
 - Stephen Gray
 - Dan DiSante
 - Sharyn Sawczak
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Brianna Doby
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Siegert
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Robert Hunter
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Ethan Studenic
 - Kevin Daub
 - Ross Walton
 - Alina Martinez
- **Other**
 - John Magee