

**OPTN Policy Oversight Committee
Meeting Summary
December 14, 2023
Conference Call**

**Jennifer Prinz, BSN, MPH, Chair
Erika Lease, MD, FCCP, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (the Committee) met via Cisco WebEx teleconference on 12/14/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Project: Examining Ethical Considerations in Access to Living Donation
2. New Project: Centralized Reporting of Extra Vessels
3. 2023 Wrap-Up and Next Steps

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

1. New Project: Examining Ethical Considerations in Access to Living Donation

The Vice-Chair of the Ethics Committee presented their potential project idea for a white paper “Examining Ethical Considerations in Access to Living Donation”.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee voted to approve the project: 17 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

A member brought up some questions about the proposal as they felt it was many different concepts mixed together. They were concerned about the lack of clarity that the many different concepts could cause when developing the paper. The Vice-Chair clarified that the core discussion revolves around existing incentives and disincentives of living donation, with a main focus being equity concerns. It was recommended that the Ethics Committee and the Living Donor Committee collaborate on this project as the Living Donor Committee is working on similar projects.

Next steps:

The Committee voted to approve the project and will recommend it for approval at the next Executive Committee meeting.

2. New Project: Centralized Reporting of Extra Vessels

The Vice Chair of the Operations and Safety Committee (OSC) presented their potential project idea for a concept paper for approval.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee voted to approve the project: 17 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain

Members were in support of this project, agreeing that some changes need to be made to current rules regarding storage and usage of extra vessels. A recommendation was made for documentation to be

created concerning the nature/quality of the vessels, and perhaps also the development of a scoring system so that centers can quantify the quality of extra vessels. The safety of using vessels was emphasized as the crux of the issue, not the quantity of vessels available.

It was also noted that the US Public Health Services (PHS) guidelines on this issue restrict the usage of vessels that have hepatitis C (HCV).

A recommendation was made that the Kidney Committee be involved in this work as kidney transplantation often requires the storage and utilization of extra vessels.

Members agreed that determining the safety of using certain stored vessels should be a primary focus. Another member questioned the rationale behind a two-week storage limit for extra vessels. They wondered if there is some research that informs this current requirement. The Vice Chair of the OSC confirmed that they would be looking into the two-week storage limit and would come to a justification that either affirms the current policy or proposes a new recommendation.

Next steps:

The Committee voted to approve the project and will recommend it for approval at the next Executive Committee meeting.

3. 2023 Wrap-Up and Next Steps

The Committee received a wrap-up of their 2023 activities and preview for the next call which will focus on approving public comment proposals for the Winter 2024 public comment cycle.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 11, 2024
- February 8, 2024
- March 18, 2024 (in-person)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Erika Lease
 - Christine Brenner
 - Stephanie Pouch
 - Lori Markham
 - Lisa Stocks
 - Shimul Shah
 - Kim Koontz
 - Jesse Schold
 - Gerald Morris
 - Stevan Gonzalez
 - Oscar Serrano
 - Sanjay Kulkani
 - Peter Stock
 - JD Menteer
 - Scott Lindberg
 - Matt Hartwig
 - Rachel Engen
 - Ty Dunn
 - Molly McCarthy
 - Nicole Turgeon
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - James Alcorn
 - Joann White
 - Darby Harris
 - Kayla Temple
 - Sarah Roache
 - Kieran McMahan
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Kim Uccellini