

Substantive Rewrite of OPTN Data Release Policies

Policy Oversight Committee

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Problem Statement

During the evaluation of the data release policies (Policies 9 and 10) as part of the rewrite project, it was determined that the data release policies were outdated.

Geography

- One of the goals within the OPTN Strategic Plan is to increase access to transplants. One of the objectives within the goal is to reduce geographical disparities in access to transplantation and promote broader distribution of organs.
- The POC was asked to address this issue.

Geography

- The POC discussed this issue during its October 11 meeting
- The ultimate goal of addressing this issue is to identify and eventually come up with equitable allocation and distribution to best meets the needs of the patients.

Geography

- Evaluate current allocation algorithms and determine if they are appropriate in their current format or perhaps could be enhanced to promote a broader distribution of organs in a measurable manner that is associated with an improved outcome.
- The POC acknowledged that each allocation system works differently and it is unlikely that one overarching set of principles will apply across all the systems

Geography

Possible first step:

Endorse some broad principles that will guide the organ-specific committees as they begin to address whether current allocation meets the desired goals or whether there needs to be some changes to the different allocation paradigms that might include broader geographic units.

Resolution

The POC developed a resolution for the Board to consider. This is on page 65 (Resolution 16) of the Board resolution document

The Executive Committee discussed this during its (date) conference call and recommended a modification to the resolution.

Resolution Language

**** RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approve the following position regarding geography in organ allocation:**

- The existing geographic disparity in ~~access to~~ allocation of organs for transplants is unacceptably high.
- The Board directs the organ-specific committees to define the measurement of fairness and any constraints for each organ system by June 30, 2013. The measurement of fairness may vary by organ type but must consider fairness based upon criteria that best represent patient outcome.
- The Board requests that optimized systems utilizing overlapping versus non-overlapping geographic boundaries be compared, including using or disregarding current DSA boundaries in allocation.