

Policy Oversight Committee Update

**Board of Directors Meeting
June 25, 2013**

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Current Work

- Geography
- Multi-Organ Allocation
- Review of Committee Projects
- Policy Rewrite Project

Geography

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

- The existing geographic disparity in allocation of organs for transplant 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.

Fairness Metrics

Kidney Committee

- Waiting time or
- Offer rate for recently listed candidates.

Liver Committee

- Variance in median MELD at transplant across DSAs

Thoracic Committee

- Waitlist mortality (along with secondary factors such as waitlist time and post-transplant survival)

Pancreas Committee

- Comparable waiting list mortality rate across different geographic areas

Next Step

- If the Board endorses the metrics then the plan over the next couple of years is for each of the committees to begin working with the SRTR to generate analyses to develop proposals that address geographical disparities.
- POC will review principles and systemic issues related to the geographical distribution of organs.

Multi-Organ Allocation

At the April 15, 2013 POC meeting, the SRTR presented an analysis that looked at the outcomes of simultaneous liver-kidney (SLK) versus liver transplant alone (LTA), the risk of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) among liver transplant recipients with pre-transplant renal dysfunction and whether it is possible to predict ESRD following LTA.

Dr. Rich Formica presented ideas for developing a fail safe to protect patients who have undergone an isolated liver transplant then subsequently have renal dysfunction that does not recover. He also presented some ideas for renal criteria in order to receive a kidney allograft at the time of liver transplantation.

Multi-Organ Allocation

Other issues discussed:

- **PSRs**

- Currently, if you perform a living donor kidney transplant following a liver transplant you have the patient survival of a liver-kidney but it counts as an individual living donor kidney transplant and an isolated liver transplant on the PSRs.

- **Immunosuppression**

- Is there an immunological disadvantage of receiving organs from different donors at different times, as opposed to simultaneous donation from the same donor at one time.

Multi-Organ Allocation

Other issues discussed:

- **Heart/Kidney**

- Need to take into account the increasing number of sensitized patients because those patients routinely wait considerable longer for an organ.

- **Modeling/Data**

- Evaluate the different scenarios and factors to determine a safety net.
- Get information about the number of SCD kidneys that become available for the kidney only candidates if they are not used for multi-organ transplants.

Multi-Organ Allocation

Other issues discussed:

- **Failsafe (or safety net)**

- It was noted that the 25th percentile was established as a starting point in order to collect information that can be measured and adjusted if necessary
- It is important to provide a safety net that allows for a subsequent kidney transplant if renal function does not improve based on proposed criteria.

Path Forward

The POC will continue to develop an ethical framework and initial proposal to send to the organ-specific committees.

Suggestion was made to get AST /ASTS involved early on.

POC leadership will work with the SRTR to identify the data needed to continue moving this proposal forward.

Policy Rewrite Project

The policies were distributed for public comment last summer.

- There was considerable feedback
- UNOS staff is working on revision to the policies based on the feedback
- POC members and the relevant committees are reviewing the post public comment drafts.
- The proposal will be distributed again for public comment this summer

2013-2014 Committee Project Review

- The POC reviewed 25 proposed new committee projects and 61 ongoing committee projects.
 - New projects (16 approved, 6 not approved, 3 no vote – need more info)
 - Ongoing (All but two approved)
- The POC recommendations were presented to the Executive Committee yesterday.