Guidance for Reporting The Final Disposition of Extra Vessels

Information related to the final disposition of extra vessels is very important to the transplant community for tracking the spread of infection or disease that may be transmitted from a donor. Because of this importance, the OPTN implemented policy on April 29, 2006, to collect data on recovery of extra vessels through donor feedback by the OPO and usage of vessels transplantation at the time of candidate removal from Waitlist by the transplanting center. Policy 5.10 related to vessel recovery, storage, and transplant may be found on the OPTN website at http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/policiesAndBylaws/policies.asp.

Definitions:

- **Extra Vessel** – A vessel taken during procurement of deceased or living donor organ(s) with the intent to be used for vasculature reconstruction or modification of a transplanted organ. Vessels directly attached to the transplantable organ (without surgical modification) are not considered extra vessels. *Extra vessels are routinely taken from areas not immediately connected to the transplantable organ* (i.e. iliac artery or vein, aorta, carotid artery or jugular vein, etc.).

- **Intended Recipient** – Organ transplant recipient for whom the donor’s extra vessel(s) were originally recovered.

- **Secondary Recipient** – Extra vessel recipient who received an organ transplant from one donor and an extra vessel from another donor.

This document will address how vessel disposition is to be reported in the following cases:

1. **INTENDED RECIPIENT / DURING TRANSPLANT PROCEDURE**: Extra vessels are used during the original transplant procedure in the intended recipient;

2. **INTENDED RECIPIENT / AFTER TRANSPLANT PROCEDURE**: Extra vessels are stored and later used in the intended recipient after the time of the original transplant procedure (e.g. for vascular reconstruction);

3. **SECONDARY RECIPIENT / DURING TRANSPLANT PROCEDURE**: Extra vessels are stored and used during the original transplant procedure for a secondary recipient;

4. **SECONDARY RECIPIENT / AFTER TRANSPLANT PROCEDURE**: Extra vessels stored and later used in a secondary recipient after the transplant procedure (e.g. for vascular reconstruction);

5. **DISCARD**: Extra vessels not used for transplant and are discarded.

**REPORT EXTRA VESSEL DISPOSITION IN UNETSM AT TIME OF WAITLIST REMOVAL FOR TRANSPLANTATION (#1 and #3)**

OPTN policy requires all candidates registered to receive a deceased donor organ to be removed from the Waitlist within 24 hours of transplant. Within Waitlist the removal function provides the capability to report extra vessels used during the transplant procedure and is described below.

If Removal Code 4 Deceased Donor tx (removed by transplanting center), 15 Living Donor tx (removed by transplanting center), 18 (deceased donor emergency transplant), 19 (deceased donor multi-Tx), or 21 (Patient died during TX procedure) is selected, the system will prompt you to complete the following fields:

- **Donor ID**: Enter the Donor ID. This is a required field.

- **Donor OPO**: Select the donor OPO. This is not required for a Removal Code of 15 Living Donor Tx.

- **Donor Organ Received**: Displays the organ for which the candidate was listed.
• **Organ Type:** Select the type of organ transplanted. This is a required field.

• **Transplant Date:** Enter the date of the beginning of the first anastomosis as the transplant date. Use the format MM/DD/YYYY. If the operation started in the evening and the first anastomosis began early the next morning, the transplant date is the date that the first anastomosis began. The transplant is considered complete when the cavity is closed and the final skin stitch or staple is applied. This is a required field.

• **Were extra vessels used in the transplant procedure:** If a Removal Code of 4 (Deceased Donor tx) or 15 (Living Donor tx) is selected, you will be required to indicate if extra vessels were used in the transplant procedure (see Figure 1). If you indicate that extra vessels were used during the transplant procedure, the system will prompt you to enter the Donor ID associated with the vessels. See Figure 1. **Please note:** There are cases (#3, #4 above) in which the Donor ID associated with the transplanted organ is not the same as the Donor ID associated with the vessel.

**Figure 1.**

What if extra vessel use is unknown at the time of Waitlist removal?

If you do not know if extra vessels used in the transplant procedure select **unknown (UNK).** Select ‘unknown’ to obtain this information at a later time. It is expected that vessel use data will be updated to “yes” or “no” as soon as it is known by the center. To enter this information in the future, access the ‘Vessel Use Report’ within the reports section of Waitlist. The report will display all recipients with vessel use entered as ‘unknown’ at the time of Waitlist removal.

**To access the Vessels Use Report:**

1. Click on Reports in Waitlist on the left menu.

2. From the Reports page, click Vessel Use Report. See Figure 2.

3. From the list of recipients provided in the report, indicate if vessels were used in the transplant procedure by clicking yes or no.

4. If you indicate that vessels were used, you must enter the Donor ID of the vessel donor.

5. Once all entries are complete, click Update. The update button will ensure that the information you have entered is saved on the Transplant Recipient Registration form (TRR).
Expected Data Report Indicating Vessel Use Data Is Needed

The home screen in Waitlist provides an alert in the top left corner of the screen to let you know that there is data input or validation that needs to occur. The phrase in the top left corner “You have expected Waitlist Data” will blink to indicate that data is expected as indicated in Figure 3 below:

Clicking on “You have expected Waitlist Data” in the top left corner of the Waitlist screen will provide access to all expected data reports for which you have been provided access. Incomplete vessel recovery data are located in the last section. It shows a list of all candidates removed from Waitlist with vessel use indicated as ‘unknown’ with the number of records to be updated and the organ for which the recipients were transplanted. See Figure 4 below.

REPORTING EXTRA VESSEL DISPOSITION VIA FAX OR EMAIL (cases #2, #4, or #5)

You may use email or fax to report the final disposition of extra vessels that were used in a transplant modification procedure after the original organ transplant (cases #2, #4) or discarded (case #5).

Via EMAIL - Email UNOS Data Quality at dataquality@unos.org with the following information:

- UNOS Donor ID of the extra vessel;
- Name of the recipient in which the vessel was used and the organ transplanted;
• Date of extra vessel use or discarded.

**Via FAX Form:** The Vessels Transplantation/Destruction Information Sheet can be accessed within the OPTN Evaluation Plan (policy 5.10 guidance) – [http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/content/policiesAndBylaws/evaluation_plan.asp](http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/content/policiesAndBylaws/evaluation_plan.asp)
Complete the form with all required information and fax to UNOS Data Quality at (804) 782-4809. See Figure 5 below.

**Figure 5.**

**EXTRA VESSEL TRANSPANTATION/DESTRUCTION FORM**

**PLEASE SUBMIT TO:** UNOS Research Department / Data Quality

E-mail (preferred): dataquality@unos.org  
FAX #: (804) 782 – 4809

**FROM:** ___________________________  
**CENTER:** ____________  
**DATE:** __________

**PHONE #:** ____________  
**FAX #:** __________

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**UNOS Policy 5.10.2 Vessel storage:** The Transplant Center must designate a person to monitor and maintain records, destroy, and notify the OPTN of outcome and use of vessels. This designated person must maintain information on all donor vessels including monitoring and maintaining all records relating to the use and management of donor vessels (e.g. subsequent positive serology testing, monitor inventory of stored vascular conduits). This person must monitor the refrigerator, ensure records are up to date and available with the conduits, destroy the vessels when expired, and notify the OPTN of its use or disposal.

**IMPORTANT:** Although not required by OPTN policy at this time, it is recommended that extra vessel disposition be reported as soon as its use or discard is known, or at least monthly.

**Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Vessel Disposition Reporting.**

**Errors in reporting disposition data in UNetSM?** Contact the UNOS Helpdesk to complete a work order request to change the data as soon as possible.

**What if extra vessels from more than one donor were used in the transplant or vascular revision procedure?** If extra vessels from multiple donors were used in the transplant procedure, please contact the UNOS Helpdesk to report the additional donor IDs for the vessels transplanted.

**How do I report when there is “partial use” of extra vessels?** For example: when an iliac artery is used for transplant but the iliac vein (or vice versa) is stored, ultimately discarded, or transplanted into a secondary recipient. Vessels from the same donor may be separated for use (e.g., iliac artery transplanted and iliac vein stored for later use). In such cases, at the time of Waitlist removal of the recipient indicate “yes” vessels were used and record the Donor ID of the vessel. If the remaining portion (whether the artery or vein) of the vessel is discarded, report vessel disposal on the Vessel Transplantation/Destruction Information Sheet and sent via fax to the UNOS Data Quality.

Still have questions or concerns regarding vessel disposition reporting? Contact UNOS Data Quality at dataquality@unos.org or Regional Administration at (804) 782-4800.

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