Meeting Summary

OPTN
Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network

OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee Meeting

Date: 4/20/2026
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM ET
Host: HRSA OPTN Meetings
Purpose: The Kidney Transplantation Committee is charged with considering medical, scientific, and ethical aspects related to kidney organ procurement, distribution, and allocation. The committee considers both the broad implications and the specific member situations relating to kidney issues and policies. The goal of the committee's meetings are to develop evidence-based policies aimed at reducing the burden of renal disease in transplant patients (candidates and recipients), increasing kidney utilization, improving access to kidney transplantation as appropriate, and improving the health outcomes of kidney transplant recipients.

Meeting Attendees

Organization	*Name(s)*
HRSA	Ray Lynch Joni Mills
Kidney Transplantation Committee Members	Kristen Adams Prince Anand James Cason Tania Houle Christine Hwang Jim Kim Marc Melcher Jason Rolls Eloise Salmon Aparna Sharma Curtis Warfield
OPTN Board Members	John Magee
OPTN Matching System Contractor	Thomas Dolan
OPTN Meeting & Logistics Contractor	Hammad Aslam Emily Oehler Andrea Soong Vanessa Treanor

Action Items

Action Item	*Owner*	*Due Date*
Distribute Thomas Dolan’s slides via email	OPTN Meeting and Logistics Contractor	Complete

Meeting Notes and Key Decisions

Meeting Notes

Opening Remarks

- Quorum passed with 26 voting members

Kidney Donor Risk Index (KDPI) and Kidney Donor Risk Index (KDRI) Updates

- UNOS presented required annual updates and proposed changes to the KDPI and KDRI metrics based on donor and candidate data from 2025
  - Donor age, history of hypertension, history of diabetes, cause of death (cerebro/vascular/stroke), and donation after circulatory death (DCD) all increased year-over-year; creatinine level, height, and weight remained relatively stable
  - Questions and Discussion:
    - UNOS confirmed that donor cancer was not a driving factor behind the changes
    - HRSA confirmed the slides do not contain PHI and the OPTN Meeting and Logistics Contractor will distribute them after the meeting for attendees to review further
    - Attendees discussed unintended consequences shifting KDPI, including the addition of higher-risk kidneys to the donor pool due to more aggressive acceptance practices; there was general agreement that there is a need for future consideration of how to account for such factors in the metrics in the long term
  - A committee member motioned to vote to adopt the new KDRI mapping table; the Chair seconded the motion
  - **Vote:** Does the committee agree to adopt the new KDRI mapping table based on the 2025 reference population?
    - **Results:**
      - ◊ **Approve:** 11
      - ◊ **Reject:** 0
      - ◊ **Abstain:** 0

Estimated Post-Transplant Survival (EPTS) Mapping Table Updates

- UNOS provided updates on the EPTS reference context and reviewed the current EPTS mapping table and distribution over time; the percentage is based on a recent historical snapshot of the kidney waiting list, which UNOS defined as December 31, 2024
  - Candidate age remained stable, diabetes increased but not a large change from 2024 to 2025; percent that received a prior transplant and time on dialysis both decreased
  - The raw EPTS score required to be in the top 20% would decrease, thus it is possible that slightly fewer candidates would qualify and be deprioritized
  - Committee members noted similar issues have occurred in other parts of the allocation system, and that they should consider variable accounting with Panel Reactive Antibody (PRA) test
  - **Vote:** Does the committee agree to adopt the new EPTS mapping table based on the reference population of all adult kidney candidates on the waiting list December 31, 2025
    - **Results:**
      - ◊ **Approve:** 11
      - ◊ **Reject:** 0
      - ◊ **Abstain:** 0

OPTN Policy 3.7.A Applications for Modifications of Waiting Times

- HRSA provided overview of a waiting time modification request for a specific candidate who received a liver transplant and was listed under a safety net protocol, and shared detailed applicable policy references
  - HRSA clarified that this was not a policy vote, but a vote on the specific case
  - **Vote:** The Kidney Transplantation Committee votes to approve waitlist modification request
    - **Results:**
      - **Approve:** 11
      - **Reject:** 0
      - **Abstain:** 0

Closing Remarks

- The OPTN Board President provided comments on ongoing committee work related to patient safety and OPTN 360 improvements, emphasizing transparency and information security
- The OPTN Board President asked committee leadership if there were any emergency issues to address; the Chair responded there were none but acknowledged there were outstanding discussion topics from various projects that are currently on hold
- The OPTN Board President opened the floor for questions and urgent actions, and closed the meeting after the committee confirmed they did not have anything further to share