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Coordination of Resources for Transplant Patients and Living Donors

Policy

UTMB Transplant Services provides quality care to transplant patients and living donors in all phases of transplant and donation in adherence with UTMB standards of patient care and all applicable standards issued by regulatory and accrediting agencies, including but not limited to:

- Attachment 1 to Appendix B of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Bylaws, as administered by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS); and
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Requirements for Specialty Hospitals:
  - 42 CFR 482.94 Condition of Participation: Patient and Living Donor Management
  - 42 CFR 482.98 Condition of Participation: Human Resources

The Texas Transplant Center is located within UTMB Health System, which is a member of and abides by the rules and requirements of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN).

UTMB Transplant Services meets the dedicated personnel requirements defined by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation.

Transplant Services operates under the direction of UNOS qualified physicians serving in the role of transplant program directors.

Responsibilities

Physician Leadership

A primary transplant surgeon and transplant physician, meeting all education and training requirements to provide transplantation services, are identified to the OPTN for each organ transplant program.

The primary transplant surgeon and transplant physician, or qualified designees, are available to provide services to the transplant patient when an organ is offered for transplantation.

Physician Leadership, continued

The transplant surgeon is responsible for the provision of surgical services related to transplantation. The transplant physician is responsible for providing and coordinating transplantation care.

The program director, in collaboration with the designated primary transplant surgeon and transplant physician, ensures ongoing operation of the transplant program in compliance with OPTN policies and provides timely notification to UNOS of any deviations from OPTN policy.

Clinical Transplant Coordination

Clinical Transplant Coordinators (CTC) ensure the continuity of care of transplant patients and living donors during all phases of transplantation and donation from referral to discharge which continues in the post-transplant and post-donation phases.

The CTC is a registered nurse or clinician, licensed in the state of Texas, with experience and knowledge in the areas of transplantation and donation.

The CTC is responsible for the coordination of the clinical aspects of care for transplant patients and living donors, including acting as a liaison for ongoing communication with dialysis centers, as appropriate.

Independent Donor Advocacy

The designated independent donor advocate (IDA) Team functions independently from the Transplant Team to ensure protection of rights of living donors and prospective living donors. The individuals serving in this role are members of the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service and are prepared at the PHD level.

The IDA/Team serve as an advocate to the living donor and have experience and knowledge in the areas of transplantation, medical ethics, informed consent, and living organ donation.

The IDA/Team are responsible for informing the Transplant Team if they believe that the rights of the potential donor are not being protected.

It is the responsibility of the IDA as advisor to the donor to protect and promote the interests and rights of the living donor (or potential living donor) in order to ensure the donor makes an informed decision, free of coercion, at every phase of donation.

Social Services

Mental Health and Psychosocial Services are available to transplant patients and living donors through all phases of transplantation and living donation.

A qualified licensed transplant Social Worker performs a thorough psychosocial evaluation of all potential transplant recipients and living donors prior to listing for organ transplantation or living donation. In addition, the Social Worker has primary responsibility for coordinating the psychosocial needs of transplant patients, living donors and their families to facilitate access and provide continuity of care, in a compassionate and culturally appropriate manner.

Psychosocial evaluation of a transplant recipient prior to listing may be waived in the event of urgent listing. In the rare event that this evaluation is waived, contributing factors must be clearly documented by the transplant physician, or designee, in the recipient's medical record.

Nutritional Services

Registered Dietitians are available to provide nutritional services and dietary counseling to transplant patients and living donors through all phases of transplantation and living donation.

Pharmacy Services

Clinical Pharmacists are available to evaluate, educate, and intervene in regards to the development and implementation of transplant protocols and research. The transplant pharmacist provides medication education to the transplant team, hospital staff, transplant patients, living donors and their families.

Financial Counseling

Financial Counselors verify and coordinate the financial aspects of transplant patient and living donor care during all phases of transplantation and living donation.

Tissue Typing Services

The tissue antigen lab is available to assist transplantation and donation services by providing human leukocyte antigen (HLA) and panel reactive antibody testing for patients and donors.

Ethics Consultation Service

Ethics Consultation Services are available as necessary to support transplant patients and living donors with their decision making through all phases of transplantation and living donation.

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Hospital Resources

The UTMB Blood Bank is available to provide services to the transplant patient and living donor.

The transplant multidisciplinary team coordinates care for the transplant patient and living donor with collaboration from experts in internal medicine, radiology, pathology, immunology, infectious disease, physical and respiratory therapy, surgery, anesthesiology, hepatology, nephrology, and pulmonary medicine.

Sufficient operating and recovery room, surgical, intensive care, and general practice beds and personnel are dedicated to the care of transplant patients and living donors.

References

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Requirements for Specialty Hospitals:
  - 42 CFR 482.94 Condition of Participation: Patient and Living Donor Management
  - 42 CFR 482.98 Condition of Participation: Human Resources
- Attachment 1 to Appendix B of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Bylaws, as administered by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)
- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- The Joint Commission (TJC)