

**OPTN/UNOS Executive Committee
Meeting Summary
February 2, 2018
Web Conference**

Yolanda Becker, MD, Chair

Discussions of the full committee on February 2, 2018 are summarized . All committee meeting summaries are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/> .

Modification to HCC Extension Criteria

The Chair of the Liver and Intestine Transplantation Committee presented on the proposal post-public comment. After the December 12, 2017 implementation of “Changes to HCC Criteria for Auto Approval,” it was realized that the language inadvertently removed automatic extensions for HCC candidates that fall below the eligibility criteria. Between December 12 and January 30, 2018, a total of 1607 MELD/PELD exception forms were submitted to regional review boards, 231 of which were extensions that only failed to meet auto approval criteria because tumors fell below T2 criteria. The proposed change allows candidates with an approved HCC exception to receive automatic extensions without regional review board approval, even if the treated lesions fall below T2 criteria. If approved, implementation is scheduled for February 5, 2018. Public comment was unanimously favorable.

Additional review by the sponsoring committee found three other non-substantive clarifications to the following policies:

- *Policy 9.3.F: Candidates with Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)* – introductory section needs MELD/PELD scores reconciled with the NLRB changes implemented in Dec. 2017;
- *Policy 9.5.I: Requirements for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) MELD or PELD Score Exceptions* – stylistic change moves HCC to the introductory sentence before the bulleted list (applies to all 3 bullet points); and
- *Policy 9.5.I.vii: Extensions of HCC Exceptions* – change “three months” to “90 days” for consistency and programming.

By a vote of 11 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions by the Executive Committee, it was

RESOLVED, that changes to Policies 9.3.F (Candidates with Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) and 9.3.F.vii (Extensions of HCC Exceptions), are hereby approved, effective February 5, 2018.

RESOLVED, that changes to Policies 9.5.I (Requirements for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) MELD or PELD Score Exceptions) and 9.5.I.vii (Extensions of HCC Exceptions) are hereby approved, effective pending implementation and notice to OPTN members.

OPTN/UNOS Ad Hoc Geography Committee Update

The ad hoc geography committee was formed at the December 2017 Board Meeting to take a comprehensive look at organ distribution approaches across all organs, and recommend organ distribution policies and concepts aligned with the Final Rule to be used in reviewing and analyzing policies. They are focused on organ distribution, not allocation as a whole. A recommendation will be made to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors after their April web conference. The committee will not change allocation policies or send anything out for public comment.

Committee Restructuring Concept Paper

Feedback is being collected on a concept paper on committee structure out for public comment. The intent of the project is to increase involvement with the committees outside of the rigid committee structure, but concern from some groups is that designation as an Expert Council mitigates their influence on policies. Living donors and pediatrics are particularly concerned. Regions thus far have been generally supportive of a change to the committee structure, but have concerns about certain aspects of the concept. Feedback will continue to be collected through public comment.

Upcoming Meetings

- February 26, 2018 1:00-2:00 PM EST
- March 19, 2018 1:00-2:00 PM EST
- April 16, 2018 1:00-2:00 PM EST
- April 20, 2018 8:00 AM-12:00 PM CST
- May 14, 2018 1:00-2:00 PM EST
- June 11, 2018 Time TBD