OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
February 2, 2024
Conference Call

Scott Biggins, MD, Chair
Shimul Shah, MD, MHCM, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 0/02/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Continuous Distribution: Medical Urgency Attribute

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Continuous Distribution: Medical Urgency Attribute

The Committee discussed whether to incorporate a new liver medical urgency scoring system concurrently with liver continuous distribution or wait to make changes to the medical urgency score until after implementation of the first version of continuous distribution.

Summary of discussion:

> Decision: The Committee decided to continue to learn more about each various liver medical urgency scoring model.

A member stated that taking the time to review and analyze various medical urgency scores would delay the development of liver continuous distribution. However, the member noted the importance of medical urgency within continuous distribution and supported the Committee to vet new medical urgency scores. The member added it will be important to continue to discuss the benefits and challenges of changing the medical urgency score at the same time as a continuous distribution system is implemented.

Another member leaned toward developing both concurrently to avoid incremental changes that take more time. The member also noted optimizing medical urgency could improve efficiency and justice. However, the member acknowledged the a challenge would be slowing down the development of the liver continuous distribution project.

The Vice Chair advocated that the Committee should research and analyze alternative medical urgency systems. The Vice Chair added that it is important that the Committee takes the time to determine which medical urgency model is optimal.

An SRTR representative emphasized that medical urgency scoring is critical to predict mortality risk and properly prioritize candidates. The SRTR representative noted that any deficiencies with a medical urgency score could be identified and addressed quickly after implementation, citing the experience in lung continuous distribution for adjusting the blood type rating scale. A member noted that the Committee should strive for not having to make quick adjustments after implementation. The member

added that the continuous distribution framework is supposed to be more flexible. Therefore, the member suggested that it may make more sense to vet new medical urgency scores in the future and implement any potential changes in a future version of continuous distribution.

Another member supported waiting to make changes to medical urgency scoring for a future version of liver continuous distribution given the many complexities with a new system.

A member commented that they wish to learn more about each medical urgency score.

An SRTR representative stated that, when considering modeling, it is important to consider allocation policies as well as the state of the exceptions processes at a given time due to differences in previous simulation cohorts.

The Chair summarized that the Committee seeks more information on alternatives to MELD 3.0.

Next steps:

The Committee will discuss medical urgency scoring models further at upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Meetings

- February 16, 2024, at 2 pm ET (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Scott Biggins
  - Shimul Shah
  - Aaron Ahearn
  - Allison Kwong
  - Cal Matsumoto
  - Christine Radolovic
  - Chris Sonnenday
  - Erin Maynard
  - Jennifer Muriett
  - Lloyd Brown
  - Sophoclis Alexopoulos
  - Tovah Dorsey-Pollard
  - Vanessa Pucciarelli
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Jack Lake
  - Katie Audette
  - Nick Wood
  - Ryo Hirose
  - Tim Weaver
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Cole Fox
  - Erin Schnellinger
  - Houlder Hudgins
  - James Alcorn
  - Katrina Gauntt
  - Kayla Balfour
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Niyati Upadhyay
  - Shelby Jones
- **Other**
  - Jen Lau