

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
November 30, 2022
Conference Call**

James Trotter, MD, Chair

Introduction

The OPTN National Liver Review Board Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 11/30/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Challenges in the Multivisceral Transplant Allocation System

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

1. Challenges in the Multivisceral Transplant Allocation System

The Subcommittee continued discussing the challenges with the multivisceral transplant allocation system.¹

Summary of discussion:

The Subcommittee reviewed the drafted NLRB guidance for multivisceral transplant candidates. The Subcommittee focused on determining a score recommendation in NLRB guidance for multivisceral transplant candidates.

A member stated that multivisceral subject matter experts are supportive of recommending an exception score of median MELD at transplant (MMaT) plus six with an additional three points every six months.

Another member suggested the Subcommittee consider creating guardrails on the score recommendation in order to preserve transplant access for high lab MELD liver-alone candidates. A member did not support a cap on the number of MELD exceptions points for multivisceral candidates. The member explained that multivisceral candidates are in need of a specific quality organ offer, and therefore should have a high MELD score in order to access those organ offers. The member emphasized that the MELD score was designed for liver-alone candidates, and does not adequately address the medical needs of multivisceral candidates.

Several members supported a cap on the number of MELD exceptions points for multivisceral candidates. The Chair noted the system does not allow for a cap. Staff explained that the only MELD score that can be requested is a MELD of 40. Staff explained that the number of MMaT points could be capped, but a MELD score based on MMaT cannot be set due to MMaT relative to the donor hospital.

A member stated that there are liver-alone candidates with high MELD scores that are in need of quality livers. The member stated that the post-transplant outcomes of liver-alone transplant compared to

¹ Tommy Ivanics et al. "Impact of the Acuity Circle Model for Liver Allocation on Multivisceral Transplant Candidates," *American Journal of Transplantation* 22, no. 2 (2021): pp. 464-473, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.16803>.

multivisceral transplant should be a factor to consider. Another member stated that there should be more liberal organ offer acceptance for multivisceral candidates.

A member emphasized that there are about thirty to forty multivisceral transplants performed a year.

Another member noted that multivisceral candidates are currently under prioritized. However, the member stated concern that the community may view this proposal as an over prioritization.

A member stated the Subcommittee could recommend MMaT plus six with a three point increase every three months, and then monitor the impact and readjust as needed. Another member agreed.

The Subcommittee reviewed *Policy 9.8.D: Sorting Within Each Classification*. It was noted that per *Policy 9.8.D* a liver-alone candidate with a lab MELD score of 40 would be prioritized ahead of a multivisceral candidate with an exception MELD score of 40.

A member of the community urged the OPTN Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee to pay attention to multivisceral candidates during the development of continuous distribution.

Next steps:

The OPTN Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee will review the drafted guidance and score recommendation during the December 2, 2022 meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

- December 8, 2022 @ 2:30 PM ET (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Alan Gunderson
 - Allison Kwong
 - James Eason
 - James Markmann
 - Jim Pomposelli
 - Jim Trotter
 - Kym Watt
 - Scott Biggins
 - Shunji Nagai
 - Sophonclis Alexopolous
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Betsy Gans
 - Erin Schnellinger
 - Jennifer Musick
 - Julia Foutz
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Niyati Upadhyay
 - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
 - Shekhar Kubal
 - Jonathan Fridell