

OPTN/UNOS Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
August 24, 2015
Conference Call

Ryutaro Hirose, MD, Chair
Julie Heimbach, MD, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on August 24, 2015 are summarized below and will be reflected in the committee's next report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. Meeting summaries and reports to the Board are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>.

Committee Projects

The Chair reviewed the Committee's project portfolio, which includes projects that are active or on hold, as well as new ideas that have not yet been submitted to the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) for approval. Liver Redistricting and the National Liver Review Board remain the Committee's top two priorities. Referencing the results of an online poll of Committee members, the Chair led a discussion to determine if the Committee should submit additional projects to the POC for approval in September.

1. System Enhancements to Expedite Liver Allocation and Increase Utilization

Usable organs are sometimes discarded due to inefficiencies in the current allocation system. These inefficiencies could be exacerbated with larger geographic districts. In anticipation of liver redistricting, the Committee convened a subcommittee in July 2014 to examine ways to increase utilization of livers. The subcommittee considered proposing a donor profile for expedited placement, but put this on hold pending the outcome of redistricting. However, the subcommittee has recommended the following policy and programming changes to facilitate liver placement:

- Increase the number of simultaneous offers an OPO can make.
- Decrease the offer evaluation time limit.
- Display the current list of outstanding offers for a candidate appearing on a match (actual acceptances, provisional acceptances, relative rank for each offer).

While the Committee acknowledges that further review of policy and OPO performance metrics may yield additional opportunities for increasing utilization, members agreed that these system enhancements should be submitted for POC approval in September. Not only does this project contribute to the OPTN's priority of increasing the number of transplants, but also contributes to the successful implementation of redistricting.

2. Changes to HCC Criteria for Auto Approval

Based on the results of the online survey, Committee members overwhelmingly believe reforming HCC policy is a priority. One project that is currently on hold examines the criteria for automatically approving MELD exception points for HCC candidates. Research shows that a subset of HCC liver candidates automatically receive exception points despite having a very low risk of disease progression, waiting list mortality, or removal from the waiting list because too sick to transplant.

The goal of this project is improving equity in access to transplant. The POC may not be able to approve the project in September because of the need to dedicate resources to the prioritized strategic goal of increasing the number of transplants. However, the

Committee will submit this project to the POC for consideration in September. Regardless if the Committee is able to acquire approval to modify HCC automatic approval criteria immediately, it will reform disparate HCC exception practices through the National Liver Review Board.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 18
- October 20
- November 20