

**OPTN/UNOS Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**December 18, 2015**  
**Conference Call**

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

*Discussions of the full committee on December 18, 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**

**1. National Liver Review Board**

The Chair of the MELD Enhancements and Exceptions Subcommittee presented the National Liver Review Board (NLRB) proposal to the full Committee so members could consider whether to submit it for public comment. Prior to the vote, members requested that the required timeframe to vote on an assigned case be extended from 5 to 7 days, which is consistent with the current Regional Review Board (RRB) operational guidelines. Members discussed whether to require that all liver programs participate in the NLRB. They decided that participation should be voluntary but will solicit feedback during public comment.

One member inquired about the anticipated impact of the proposal on the workload of individual reviewers. The Subcommittee Chair explained that the proposal automates all standardized MELD/PELD exceptions in policy, an estimated 1,000 initial and extension requests each year. This proposal also allows a candidate that meets standardized criteria to be eligible for automatic approval of a subsequent extension request after the liver transplant program misses a submission deadline, so long as the late request was reviewed by the NLRB. Currently the RRBs review an estimated 800 additional requests each year because of a missed extension deadline. With these improvements, the overall caseload will decrease by nearly 2,000 requests each year, which will be distributed equally among all reviewers nationally.

The Committee discussed the value of the NLRB proposal being submitted for an initial round of public comment while policy development continues on other important aspects of the national exception system. During spring 2016 public comment, the Committee hopes to build consensus for the structure and operational guidelines of the NLRB. Continued policy development will focus on the optimal method for assigning MELD exception scores and revisions to hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) exception eligibility.

The Committee approved the proposal for public comment (16-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstentions).

**2. Simultaneous Liver-Kidney (SLK) Allocation**

The Kidney Transplantation Committee is submitting the Simultaneous Liver Kidney (SLK) Allocation proposal for a second cycle of public comment. Members from the Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee participated in the working group that developed the proposal. Therefore, the Kidney Committee asked that the Liver Committee endorse submitting the proposal for public comment. After the Kidney

Committee Chair presented the proposal, the Liver Committee unanimously supported submitting the proposal for public comment (16-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstentions).

**Upcoming Meetings**

- January 21, 2016
- February 18, 2016
- March 17, 2016