

**OPTN/UNOS Minority Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2018
Conference Call**

**Sylvia E. Rosas, M.D., MSCE, Chair
Irene Kim, M.D., Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Minority Affairs Committee (Committee) met via teleconference on 10/15/2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Liver Committee Geography Proposal
2. Puerto Rico data presentation

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

1. Liver Committee Geography Proposal

The Committee reviewed a Liver Committee proposal to change liver allocation to make it more compliant with the Final Rule by removing DSA and region from allocation and using instead a geographic framework that is more compliance with the Final Rule, such as concentric circles.

Summary of discussion

The Committee focused its comments and feedback on the potential impact on vulnerable populations that could result from the geographic changes. The following questions were asked by Committee members and answered by the Liver Committee chair.

- Question: Does the SRTR modeling upon which the proposal is based show an impact on minority populations?
 - Answer: No, the modeling generally did not show positive or negative impact on minority populations compared to the current system. While ethnicity and gender were neutral compared to the current system, there was a slightly positive impact on pediatric liver candidates.
- Question: Could the proposed changes lead to livers being shipped significant distances before the liver surgeon assesses the organ, increasing discard rates?
 - Answer: It is standard for liver surgeons to travel to procure the organs now, or use the local center that they have a relationship with to do so; therefore the surgeons would know at the time of procurement the liver quality and discard rates shouldn't be impacted.
- Question: What will be the impact with SLK?
 - Answer: 250 nm (the size being considered by the Liver Committee) is smaller than most regions, although it would be a moving circle based on donor hospital. There is no indication there would be broader sharing of kidneys with SLK than what it is at the current time but the Committee will monitor closely, especially because this could impact minority populations waiting for a kidney transplant.
- Question: Will the Liver Committee carefully consider rural, gender, race and other minority and socioeconomic populations in the post-implementation monitoring plan?
 - Answer: Yes, consideration of these populations is critical and will be included in the post-implementation monitoring plan.
- Question: Did the Liver Committee consider the impact on waitlist mortality and costs?

- Answer: Yes – waitlist mortality for both the B2C and acuity circles would be slightly better than the current system and the 2017 Board approved option. Although assessing impact on costs can be difficult, the modeling did look at flying rates and there was an increase which indicates a potential increase in costs.

Next Steps

The Committee liaison will summarize the Committee's comments on the Liver Committee proposal; these comments will be posted on public comment.

2. Puerto Rico data presentation

The Committee received a data presentation on characteristics of Puerto Rican donors, because this relates to the Committee's feedback it had previously given to the Liver Committee that special consideration be given to Puerto Rico in the new changes to geographic allocation.

Data presentation

The data showed a higher percentage of donors above the age of 50 in Puerto Rico compared with the rest of the country. There doesn't appear to be a significant difference in donor BMI for Puerto Rico compared to the rest of the country; if anything, Puerto Rican donors had a slightly lower BMI compared to the rest of the country. Puerto Rico doesn't appear to be recovering DCD liver donors.

Summary of Discussion

Committee members expressed interest in publishing the data to share with the broader transplant community. A Committee member asked about data on blood types and Puerto Rico, which is available and the research liaison will post on Basecamp.

Next Steps

The research liaison will post the data on Basecamp, and will follow up on interest on publishing the data.

Upcoming Meeting

- December 12, 2018