

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee  
National Liver Review Board Subcommittee  
Meeting Summary  
January 9, 2020  
Conference Call**

**James Trotter, MD, Committee Chair  
James Pomposelli, MD, PhD, Committee Vice Chair  
Julie Heimbach, MD, Subcommittee Chair**

## Introduction

The National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via teleconference on 1/9/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. PCLKD Data Report
2. Appeals Review Team Discussion
3. HCC Template Review
4. Education Topics

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

### 1. PCLKD Data Report

The Subcommittee previously discussed adding language to the Adult Other Diagnosis guidance document for candidates with polycystic liver kidney disease (PCLKD) who also require a kidney transplant.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Subcommittee reviewed proposed language to add to the Adult Other Diagnosis guidance document:

Certain patients with PLD may benefit from MELD exception points. Indication for an exception include those with PCLKD (Mayo type D or C) with severe symptoms plus any of the following:

- Hepatic decompensation
- Concurrent hemodialysis
- GFR less than 20 ml/min
- Patient with a prior kidney transplant

When a candidate also meets the medical eligibility criteria for liver-kidney allocation as described in *OPTN Policy 9.9: Liver-Kidney Allocation* and is registered on the kidney waitlist, the patient should also be considered for an exception score **equal to median MELD at transplant**.

The Subcommittee reviewed data on PCLKD patients including number of waitlist registrants with PCLKD diagnosis, number of those registrants with liver exceptions, dropout rates for these patients (due to death, severity of illness, etc.), and total recipients with PCLKD diagnosis. A Subcommittee member requested to also see additional data for patients that have a diagnosis of PCLKD that have been listed for liver only.

The Subcommittee discussed whether MMaT would be an appropriate score to add to the guidance for candidates with PCLKD who also need a kidney transplant. The Subcommittee agreed that the guidance should include a recommendation that candidates with PCLKD and also needing a kidney transplant should be considered for a score equal to MMaT. The Subcommittee also agreed that a candidate with PLD should be considered for a score equal to MMaT minus three.

## **2. Appeals Review Team Discussion**

The Subcommittee reviewed a plan for different Subcommittee members to serve as an Appeals Review Team (ART) leader every month.

Member of Liver Committee would serve as ART Leader for one month

- Would be required to observe ART call one week prior to their assigned month
- UNOS staff to create ART leader schedule and communicate assignment to each ART leader
- Would start in June 2020 – ART schedule already complete through May 2020

ART leader responsibilities would include:

- Reviewing cases and being prepared to lead ART discussion
- In-depth knowledge of guidance documents
- Voting on assigned cases
- Provide feedback to Liver Committee

The Subcommittee members agreed with the plan as presented.

The Subcommittee then discussed the whether a dedicated Pediatric ART should be created. The Subcommittee reviewed the following data:

- Fifteen pediatric ART cases (out of 131 total cases) from 5/22/2019 to 01/03/2020
  - Approximately one case every two weeks
- 56 centers represented on Pediatric NLRB
  - Nine members on each ART, each member serving for two months, then 54 members per year

The Subcommittee agreed there should be a dedicated Pediatric ART at nine members with only one two-month term per year. Current guidelines state: *An NLRB member will be selected to serve for no more than one month each year on the ART.* This language will need to be changed to accommodate the proposed plan for the Pediatric ART.

Subcommittee members emphasized there should be cross-collaboration between Adult and Pediatric ART groups.

## **3. HCC Template Review**

Per previous Subcommittee discussions, the Subcommittee reviewed the proposed hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) template to help guide transplant programs in writing HCC exception narratives. One Subcommittee member recommended moving lesion information higher on the template.

Next steps:

The template will be sent to Subcommittee members for further review.

## **4. Education Topics**

The Subcommittee Chair asked the Subcommittee members to review proposed education topics for future webinars and other communications.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- February 13, 2020
- March 12, 2020