

## **OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**February 7, 2020**

**Conference Call**

**James Trotter, MD, Chair**

**James Pomposelli, MD, PhD, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via teleconference on 2/7/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Acuity Circles Update
2. Pediatric National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Data Report
3. NLRB Subcommittee Update
4. Project Portfolio Discussion

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

#### **1. Acuity Circles Update**

The Committee was informed the acuity circles allocation policy was implemented on February 4, 2020. The recently approved Hawaii and Puerto Rico variance will be implemented on February 18, 2020.

##### Summary of discussion:

The Chair asked the committee members if they have heard any feedback. One committee member said they've heard concern from members in Hawaii who are unsure of how they will be affected by the acuity circle implementation prior to the Hawaii variance implementation.

#### **2. Pediatric National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Data Report**

The Committee reviewed the NLRB Pediatric Check-in report.

##### Summary of Data:

The Committee reviewed key data points on exception forms submitted to the Pediatric NLRB. The report concluded:

- 507 forms were submitted, of which 68.6% were approved
- Since January 2019, there was a decrease in the percentage of the waiting list with an approved MELD or PELD exception, as well as a decrease in the overall size of the waiting list
- Post-NLRB, there was an increase in waiting list registrations with an exception score of PELD 35
- Overall, there were 20 fewer deceased donor pediatric liver transplants post-NLRB compared to pre-NLRB, but the monthly count of transplants varied
- Post-NLRB, the deceased donor transplant rate increased for the <1 year olds, the 1-5 year olds, and the 6-11 year olds and decreased for the 12-17 year olds

##### Summary of discussion:

A committee member suggested a need to develop some guidance in terms of how pediatric exception points are awarded. The committee was informed that the NLRB Subcommittee is going to discuss changes to the pediatric guidance.

#### Next Steps

The Pediatric NLRB Check-in report is an early look at the impact of the NLRB and metrics will continue to be monitored.

### **3. NLRB Subcommittee Update**

The Committee discussed the second phase of NLRB enhancements slated for public comment in August 2020.

#### Summary of discussion:

The second phase of the NLRB enhancements project currently has three components:

- Creation of a Pediatric-specific Appeals Review Team (ART)
- Creation of an ART Leader position
- Polycystic Liver Disease (PLD) and Polycystic Liver-Kidney Disease (PCLKD) guidance changes

Committee members did not have any feedback on the proposed components in the next round of NLRB enhancements.

#### Next steps:

The NLRB Subcommittee will continue to discuss ways to improve the NLRB and will keep the Committee informed as the project progresses.

### **4. Project Portfolio Discussion**

The Committee reviewed the current project portfolio as well as plans for future projects.

#### Summary of data:

The Committee reviewed their current project portfolio:

- NLRB Enhancements, Part 1: currently out for public comment, BOD in June 2020
- NLRB Enhancements, Part 2: slated for public comment August 2020, BOD in December 2020
- Continuous Distribution: Estimated to start work January 2021

The Committee then reviewed proposed future projects:

- Revising PELD and Status 1B Criteria
- Revising MELD to address disparity for women
- Improvements to Acuity Circles (once sufficient data is available)
- Continued Improvements to NLRB

#### Summary of discussion:

The Committee discussed if the project to revise MELD to address disparity for women should be prioritized. A committee member suggested instead of adjusting MELD points, the Committee could look at prioritizing those small donor organs to small adults. Another committee member suggested a project to develop a geographic coefficient for MELD score.

Next steps:

Committee members were asked to consider prioritization of the project ideas as well as collect and document their project ideas, literature to be reviewed, and types of data that would need to be reviewed.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- March 6, 2020 – Teleconference
- April 3, 2020 – Teleconference
- April 14, 2020 – Richmond, VA

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Scott Biggins
  - Andy Bonham
  - Kimberly Brown
  - Derek DuBay
  - Jen Kerney
  - Shekhar Kubal
  - Kevin O'Connor
  - Mark Orloff
  - James Pomposelli
  - Joe Roth
  - James Trotter
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Ajay Israni
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Michael Conboy
  - John Lake
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Nicole Benjamin
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Kimberly Combs
  - Lindsay Larkin
  - Elizabeth Miller
  - Joel Newman
  - Samantha Noreen
  - Liz Robbins Callahan
  - Leah Slife
  - Karen Williams
- **Other Attendees**
  - Samantha Delair
  - Dan Syed
  - Samantha Taylor