

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

### **Meeting Summary**

**May 1, 2020**

**Conference Call**

**James Trotter, MD, Chair**

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

### **Introduction**

The Liver & Intestinal Organ Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 5/1/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Enhancements Transition Discussion
2. Polycystic Liver Disease/Polycystic Liver Kidney Disease (PLD/PCLKD) Guidance
3. Project Update
4. Review Simultaneous Liver-Kidney (SLK) Policy Under Acuity Circles

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

### **1. National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Enhancements Transition Discussion**

The Committee discussed transition procedures for implementation of NLRB enhancements.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Committee discussed if there are any populations that may be treated less favorably upon implementation of the NLRB enhancements proposal. The Committee did not indicate there were any populations that would be negatively impacted by implementation of the proposal.

### **2. Polycystic Liver Disease/Polycystic Liver Kidney Disease (PLD/PCLKD) Guidance**

The Committee continued discussion on items to include in the updated language for PLD/PCLKD within the NLRB guidance. The Committee discussed whether to include "sarcopenia" or "frailty" in the list of comorbidities. Ultimately, the Committee decided to add "moderate to severe protein calorie malnutrition" to the list of comorbidities.

Finally, the Committee decided to update language as follows:

*Patients who meet the criteria above should be considered for a MELD exception with similar priority to standardized MELD exceptions.*

*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.*

### Next Steps

The updated language will be added to the NLRB Enhancements proposal for Summer Public Comment.

### **3. Project Update**

The Committee received an update on project work.

The PELD/Status 1B Criteria Workgroup will be comprised of representatives from the Liver and Pediatric Committees as well as subject matter experts. The meeting schedule is being determined but is anticipated to begin meeting soon.

The Committee then discussed two new proposed projects:

- MMaT Calculation project
- Allocation Tiebreakers project

Per discussions within the Acuity Circles Subcommittee and the Committee, the goal of the MMaT Calculation project is to address concerns that exception candidates listed at different transplant programs within close geographic proximity have different MMaT scores. Committee members commented as part of the project, the Committee will need to be thorough in developing a solution and determine there are no unintended consequences. The Committee agreed this project should go forward to the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) for approval.

The goal of the Allocation Tiebreakers is to improve current tiebreaker order to better rank exception and non-exception candidates. The Committee agreed this project should also go forward to the POC for approval.

#### Next Steps

Both projects will go before the POC for approval in May.

#### **4. Review Simultaneous Liver-Kidney (SLK) Policy Under Acuity Circles**

The Committee discussed current SLK policy. Committee members were asked about their experience with SLK allocation after implementation of the Acuity Circles policy and if they thought mandatory sharing of liver-kidney combinations should go out to a further distance. Committee members commented it's too early to tell what effect Acuity Circles has had on SLK allocation.

#### Next Steps

The Committee will continue to monitor data to determine what impact Acuity Circles has on SLK allocation.

#### **Upcoming Meeting**

- June 5, 2020