OPTN Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
June 5, 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 6/5/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Enhancements Part 2 Public Comment Proposal Language
2. Expedited Placement of Livers: Implementation Question
3. Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Heart Procurement
4. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update
5. Service Recognition and Welcome to New Committee Members

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

1. National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Enhancements Part 2 Public Comment Proposal Language

The Committee reviewed draft policy language to be included in the NLRB Enhancements proposal to include updates to:

- POPH exception criteria
- HCC explant pathology review
- Creation of Pediatric ART
- Creation of an ART Leader
- PLD/PCLKD Guidance

Summary of discussion:

The Committee did not have any changes to the proposed policy language.

Vote

Do you support sending this proposal out for public comment?

- Approve – 100% (11)
- Oppose – 0% (0)

Next Steps

The policy language will be included in the NLRB Enhancements proposal.

2. Expedited Placement of Livers: Implementation Question

The Committee was informed of the current status of the implementation of the *Expedited Placement of Livers* proposal.

Summary of Data

The Committee was reminded the project and policy will establish requirements for the expedited placement of livers for both transplant hospitals and OPOs. The expedited placement pathway will use the following rules:

- The host OPO must have an acceptance declined on the original current liver match run for deceased whole liver donor
- The donor must be in operating room or withdrawal has been initiated
- Electronic offers will be sent using the original match run

Summary of Discussion

The Committee reviewed new expedited liver donor characteristics that are being added to Waitlist^{SM} as part of the implementation. Regarding the expedited liver opt-in question being added to Waitlist, the Committee was asked for acceptable donor criteria should be allowed to be broader than normal acceptance criteria. The Committee indicated the criteria should be allowed to be broader as the donor characteristics are not granular enough to account for other factors. Some Committee members commented the updates would be greatly enhanced by requiring image uploads of biopsy results into Waitlist.

3. Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Heart Procurement

The Chair informed the Committee there were concerns raised from a transplant program regarding a DCD heart pump trial increasing warm ischemic time. The concern is the increase in ischemic time may lead to the inability to procure a liver. The Committee was asked if they have heard the same concerns within their community or experienced this situation at their hospitals.

Some committee members said they have had experience with the same issue. One committee member said they met with their organ procurement organization (OPO) ahead of time to come to an agreement.

4. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update

The Vice Chair informed the Committee that the POC recently voted to approve two Liver Committee projects to go to the Executive Committee:

- Sorting within Liver Allocation Classifications
- Updating Median MELD at Transplant Calculation

Summary of Discussion

A committee member recommended revisiting the Committee's charge with the goal of broadening the scope from liver transplant candidates to patients sick with liver disease.

Next Steps

The Executive Committee will vote to approve the new projects at their next meeting.

5. Service Recognition and Welcome to New Committee Members

Outgoing members of the Committee received recognition for their service and new members were welcomed to the Committee.

Upcoming Meetings

July 2, 2020