

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
Acuity Circles Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
October 6, 2020
Conference Call**

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

Introduction

The Acuity Circles Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via teleconference on 10/06/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. MMaT around the donor hospital

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

1. MMaT around the donor hospital

The Subcommittee continued discussion on the MMaT around the donor hospital idea.

Circle Size

The Subcommittee consensus was to recommend an initial circle size of 150 NM.

MMaT Calculation

The Subcommittee consensus was to recommend MMaT should be calculated using individual transplants.

Calculation Cohort Size

The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed cohort threshold as a combination of two transplant programs and a certain number of transplants. The Subcommittee was presented a new idea if a cohort is not met in the initial circle, the circle size would increase in small increments.

The Subcommittee discussed what size cohort is sufficiently large enough to calculate MMaT and what the incremental increase in circle size should be. The Subcommittee agreed to recommend 10 transplants and two transplant programs as the minimum cohort size. The Subcommittee also supported increasing the circle size by 50 NM until a minimum cohort size is reached.

Hawaii and Puerto Rico

The Subcommittee recognized special consideration must be made for calculating MMaT for Puerto Rico and Hawaii since both islands only contain one transplant program. The Subcommittee agreed to recommend not requiring Hawaii and Puerto Rico to meet the two program requirement, but still require them to meet the minimum number of transplants. If the cohort does not meet minimum number of transplants, the cohort time period would be expanded from 365 days to 730 days.

Alaska

The Subcommittee discussed how to apply the proposed calculation scenario to Alaska since the state does not contain any transplant programs. In current Acuity Circles allocation, donors from Alaska are

considered to be located at the Seattle-Tacoma (Sea-Tac) Airport. The Subcommittee was informed if the circle size would increase in smaller increments as proposed, the circle would eventually capture Seattle. This is a similar effect as calculating based on the Sea-Tac airport but would result in more consistent programming and policy. The Subcommittee agreed to recommend applying the proposed calculation scenario to Alaska as the rest of the contiguous U.S.

MMaT: Lower Bound

The Subcommittee was informed that the current MMaT in Puerto Rico is set at 18 and exception candidates generally have MELD/PELD 15. Most donors are allocated across the nation prior to be offered locally to candidates with MELD/PELD less than 15. There is concern that MMaT could go below 18 and exception candidates on a match run are assigned MELD/PELD of 14 or lower.

The Subcommittee considered establishing a lower bound on the MMaT score for a donor hospital. The general consensus of the committee was to support establishing a lower bound of 18.

MMaT: Calculation Exclusions

The Subcommittee was informed in current policy, MMaT calculation excludes recipients who were:

- Transplanted with living donor
- Transplanted with DCD donor
- Transplanted with donor from hospitals more than 500 NM from transplant program
- Status 1A/1B

The Subcommittee discussed if the proposed MMaT calculation around the donor hospital should have the same exclusions. The Subcommittee commented they did not see a reason to remove the exclusions and agreed to keep them as is.

MMaT: Update Schedule

The Subcommittee was informed currently MMaT program scores are updated twice a year based on a cohort from a previous 365 day period. The Subcommittee agreed to recommend keeping the same update schedule and time frame.

Median PELD at Transplant (MPaT)

The Subcommittee confirmed this project only changes MMaT calculation and does not change how MPaT is calculated. A Subcommittee member recommended clarifying this point within the proposal and to request the Pediatric/Status 1B Workgroup review how MPaT is calculated.

Next Steps

The Subcommittee will continue discussions on the next call to finalize the recommendations for the Committee.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 14
- October 28

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Peter Abt
 - Diane Alonso
 - Sumeet Asrani
 - Derek DuBay
 - Julie Heimbach
 - Bailey Heiting
 - Ray Lynch
 - Peter Matthews
 - James Pomposelli
 - Jorge Reyes
 - James Trotter
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Robert Walsh
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Michael Conboy
 - John Lake
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Matthew Cafarella
 - Craig Connors
 - Betsy Gans
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Victor Melendez
 - Samantha Noreen
 - Matt Prentice
 - Liz Robbins Callahan
 - Leah Slife
 - Karen Williams