

**OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee  
Fiscal Impact Advisory Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
October 27, 2020  
Conference Call**

**Introduction**

The Fiscal Impact Advisory Workgroup met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 10/27/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Updating Median MELD at Transplant Calculation
2. Sorting Within Liver Allocation Classifications

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

**1. Updating Median MELD at Transplant Calculation (Liver and Intestines)**

UNOS staff described the format of the meeting and posed questions for the Workgroup members to consider when assessing the fiscal impact of each proposal presented. A member provided a summary of the *Updating Median MELD at Transplant Calculation* project sponsored by the OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee and led the group's discussion on the anticipated fiscal impact.

Summary of discussion:

Currently, liver candidates with a model for end-stage liver disease (MELD) exception are assigned a score relative to the median MELD at transplant (MMaT) for the area around the transplant program where they are listed. This proposal suggests using the median (or min, max, or mean) of the MMaTs of the transplant programs around each donor hospital to assign exception scores for all exception candidates on a match run originating at that donor hospital.

A member raised a concern that this modification may impact transplant volumes and asked if there has been any modeling completed. The Chair of the Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee responded that there has been no modeling and also shared that there are no inputs required by hospitals. A member commented that unless this markedly changes a program's transplantation volume, there will be no impact. The Chair of the Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee agreed and noted that volume is unlikely to be affected.

UNOS staff asked for input from members representing histocompatibility labs and organ procurement organizations (OPOs). A member asked if changes to transportation was considered during the development of this project. The Chair of the Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee responded that the proposed modification would not have a substantial change in transportation needs or travel time.

A member commented that there are no concerns from the histocompatibility labs perspective.

**2. Sorting Within Liver Allocation Classifications (Liver and Intestines)**

A member gave an overview of the proposed project *Sorting Within Liver Allocation Classifications*.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff commented that this project will be combined with the *Updating Median MELD at Transplant Calculation* project when the proposal goes out for public comment. This component of the project assesses the order of criteria used for ranking liver candidates within the same allocation classification.

This proposal only impacts hospitals. These impacts may affect transplant volume and may require staff training. However, the members agreed that this would have a small impact similar to the *Updating Median MELD at Transplant Calculation* project already discussed.

Next steps:

UNOS staff asked the leads to follow up with any additional thoughts via email. UNOS staff will send drafts out to group for review.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- TBD

## **Attendance**

- **Committee Members**
  - Andrea Tietjen
  - Debbi McRann
  - Gwen McNatt
  - Jerome Saltarrelli
  - Julie Bergin
  - Robert Goodman
  - Robert Howey
  - Ryan Haydu
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Vanessa Arriola
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Emily Ward
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Peter Sokol
  - Sarah Konigsburg
- **Other Attendees**
  - James Trotter