

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
January 7, 2021
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 Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 01/07/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. PELD/Status 1B Project Update
2. Acuity Circles: Nine Month Monitoring Report
3. Updating Diagnoses on the Transplant Candidate Registration (TCR) Form

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

1. PELD/Status 1B Project Update

The Chair of the PELD/Status 1B workgroup presented the project's progress to- date. This project aims to re-evaluate the pediatric liver allocation system for the first time in twenty years.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if the workgroup aims to decrease the number of pediatric candidates receiving Pediatric End-Stage Liver Disease (PELD) exceptions. The presenter responded that due to the current underestimation of mortality on the pediatric waitlist, many pediatric candidates receive exception scores. If modifications can be made for age adjusted mortality and a better scoring system is established, the number of non-standard exceptions should decrease.

A member asked how the OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee (the pediatric committee) plans to prioritize different kinds of pediatric liver diseases within Status 1B. The presenter explained that upcoming workgroup meetings plan to discuss the prioritization of diagnoses within the Status 1B category.

A member asked if the impact of sociodemographic factors had been taken into consideration when examining pediatric mortality. The presenter responded that while this project does not look at sociodemographic factors, research does show that race is a factor in some regions with regard to PELD exception requests. The member suggested investigating patient geography to get a better idea of how various environments could impact outcomes.

Next steps:

The workgroup has submitted an updated PELD derivation request to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR). Once this request is fulfilled, the workgroup can use the results for modeling.

2. Acuity Circles: Nine Month Monitoring Report

UNOS research presented the nine-month monitoring report for acuity circles.

Summary of discussion:

Members agreed that the impact of broader distribution as it relates to cost should be examined, although this information is not collected by the OPTN.

A member asked if there was any outcomes data in relation to the decreased variance of median allocation Model For End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score. The presenter answered that while post-transplant outcomes data is not included in the nine-month report, this information will be included in the one-year report. The same member noted that the variance between transplant centers remains unchanged. The presenter responded that reasoning for this could have to do with variance of program size, differing practice behavior, and the impact from COVID.

Another member noted that the liver utilization rate in the non-donation after cardiac death (DCD) category had decreased. The presenter responded that COVID had likely taken a toll on this utilization rate and that more time was needed to understand the policy's impact.

3. Updating Diagnoses on the Transplant Candidate Registration (TCR) Form

The Committee was introduced to a project that aims to improve data entry for alcohol- associated diagnoses on the TCR form.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee considered updating alcohol – associated liver disease diagnoses on the TCR in order to collect more complete and accurate data on these patients. A member agreed on the importance of this project and suggested giving these diagnoses more appropriate names to make it easier for coordinators who enter data. Another member added that these diagnoses should be able to help capture outcomes data for patients with less than six months of abstinence compared to those with more than six months of abstinence. A member suggested that a patient's start of abstinence date could be collected instead of over or under six months.

Next steps:

This project is not considered new data collection and only updates current data fields on the TCR. The Committee will continue to discuss the project and solicit feedback during the upcoming regional meeting cycle.

Upcoming Meetings

- February 5, 2021

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Pete Abt
 - Sumeet Asrani
 - Diane Alanso
 - Derek DuBay
 - James Eason
 - Alan Gunderson
 - Julie Heimbach
 - Skekhar Kubal
 - Jennifer Kerney
 - Peter Matthews
 - Greg McKenna
 - Mark Orloff
 - Jorge D. Reyes
 - James Trotter
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Michael Conboy
 - John Lake
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Julia Foutz
 - Betsy Gans
 - Jason Livingston
 - Victor Melendez
 - Samantha Noreen
 - Kelley Poff
 - Matt Prentice
 - Leah Slife
 - Karen Williams
- **Other Attendees**
 - Samantha Delair
 - Evelyn Hsu (PELD/Status 1B workgroup Chair)
 - Samantha Taylor
 - Emily Perito
 - Jim Sharrock