

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
OPTN NLRB Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
February 11, 2021
Conference Call**

**Julie Heimbach, MD, Subcommittee Chair
James Trotter, MD, Committee Chair
James Pomposelli, MD, PhD, Committee Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN NLRB Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 02/11/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Systematic Review of NLRB Diagnoses
2. Multi-listing Exception Candidates

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

1. Systematic Review of NLRB Diagnoses

The Subcommittee discussed what diagnoses in guidance should be part of the initial review.

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) be prioritized for review as it is the most frequently represented diagnosis. Another member asked if the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) should do an analysis that would stratify the risk of HCC patients. The Subcommittee determined that an analysis such as this is outside the scope of the systematic review of National Liver Review Board (NLRB) diagnoses, but could be a concept to revisit when working on Continuous Distribution. A member suggested that non-standard HCC exception requests should be prioritized for review in order to identify themes outside of the standard exception criteria. The Subcommittee determined that HCC, Ascites, GI bleeding, Hepatic Encephalopathy, Hepatic Hydrothorax and Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC)/ Secondary Sclerosing Cholangitis (SSC) are the diagnoses that should be included in the initial review.

A member asked if the Subcommittee would be able to obtain Appeals Review Team (ART) data to assist in the review of HCC. Staff responded that the Subcommittee would be able to review narratives, requested score adjustments, and if exceptions was approved. Staff and subcommittee members agreed that a one-month sample of ART data would be pulled to determine its usefulness when reviewing HCC.

Next Steps:

The project to systematically review NLBR diagnoses will move forward to the Liver Committee for further discussion and the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) for further approval.

2. Multi- listing Exception Candidates

The Subcommittee will discuss exception candidates that are multi-listed and if there is a way to ensure more consistent exception statuses between listings

- Exception requests are specific to programs and are not transferrable to a different program where the candidate is listed
- This creates potential for a situation where a candidate listed at different centers and has different exception request outcomes

Summary of discussion:

The Subcommittee began discussing ideas for a national exception process that promotes more consistency. Some member suggested that if a candidate is granted an exception at one institution, their exception requests should be granted at other institutions as well. A candidate's accrued time would only be applied at one institution and their time should start from zero at institutions where they elect to multi-list. Staff informed members that data is not currently shared between centers through UNetSM and that making this modification would be a considered a significant change.

Next steps:

Members will continue this conversation during a future meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 11, 2021

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Kimberly Brown
 - Alan Gunderson
 - Julie Heimbach
 - Jim Markmann
 - Greg McKenna
 - Jorge Reyes
 - James Trotter
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - John Lake
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Betsy Gans
 - Jennifer Musick
 - Samantha Noreen
 - Kelley Poff
 - Karen Williams
- **Other Attendees:**
 - George Mazariegos