

## **OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**April 21, 2021**

**Conference Call**

**Evelyn Hsu, MD, Chair**

**Emily Perito, MD, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 3/30/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Active Collaboration Efforts
2. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update
3. Progress of Current Abstracts/Conference Presentations
4. Update on Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Sorting Liver Project
5. Heart ABOi Project Update

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

#### **1. Active Collaboration Efforts**

The Committee reviewed the following projects that members are currently participating on:

- Continuous Distribution
  - Use of age at the time of registration for pediatric definition in continuous distribution
- Kidney-Pancreas Continuous Distribution
- Liver PELD/Status 1B Criteria Workgroup
- Heart ABOi Workgroup

#### Summary of discussion:

There was no discussion.

#### **2. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update**

The Committee received a refresher on the purpose of the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) and reviewed current POC driven projects.

#### *Project Work*

- Efficient Matching
  - Match Run Rules Workgroup
  - Technology Tools Workgroup
  - Biopsy Best Practices Workgroup
- Multi-Organ Allocation
- Continuous Distribution

#### Summary of discussion:

A member inquired if there has been any discussion regarding addressing split livers. Staff explained that there was a proposal that created a split liver variance for Region 8 and the Liver Committee just

received the results of the one year post-implementation effect of that variance, specific for programs in Region 8. The purpose of that variance is to evaluate if it is increasing the number of split livers and, if it is, to make that national policy. It was explained that that's the most relevant project as it relates to split livers. Split livers continuously comes up within discussions of the Liver Committee, especially in regards to how to increase the number of split livers.

### **3. Progress of Current Abstracts/Conference Presentations**

The Committee received the following updates:

- Effect of Multi-Organ Allocation Priority on Pediatric Kidney Candidates (PAS)
  - Presentation was recorded and will be viewed on 5/2/21 along with live 5 minute Q&A
- Pediatric National Liver Review Board: What Happens to Waitlist Registrations With Denied Exception Forms (ATC)
  - Currently, being reviewed by Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
  - Emailing co-authors to get feedback on presentation
  - Presentation will be 5 minute rapid fire oral presentation

#### Summary of discussion:

The vice-chair emphasized that these presentations are an important way to deliver these findings to the relevant communities.

There was no further discussion.

### **4. Update on Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Sorting Liver Project**

The Committee reviewed the updated proposed sorting of candidates in the Liver Committee's Calculate Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) around Donor Hospital and Update Sorting project.

The updated proposal will sort candidates in the following order:

1. Allocation MELD or PELD score
2. Blood type compatibility (identical, compatible, then incompatible)
3. Age at time of registration on the liver waitlist (less than 18 years old followed by 18 years old or older)
4. Allocation MELD or PELD score type (calculated then exception)
5. Allocation MELD or PELD score waiting time (highest to lowest)
6. Total waiting time (highest to lowest)

This proposed sorting option was what the Committee thought was most appropriate during their previous meeting and this will move forward to the Board for further consideration.

#### Summary of discussion:

The vice-chair thanked the Liver Committee for taking the Committee's feedback seriously and members that spoke up during their regional meetings to express the Committee's concerns during public comment.

### **5. Heart ABOi Project Update**

The Committee received an update on the progress of this project and reviewed the following potential policy solutions:

- Edits to Policy 6.6.A and 6.6.B
  - Expand access to ABOi listing

- Considerations around priority for ABOi listed candidates vs. those unable to be listed ABOi
- Update reporting to include useful data on impact of changes and potential future changes

Summary of discussion:

The vice-chair inquired about the approval process for this project. Staff explained that this project will be presented to the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) during their May or June meeting for project approval. After the project has been approved, the Heart Committee members and the Pediatric Committee members will form a workgroup to begin collaborating on a solution. The solution will then be presented to POC again in January 2021 in order for the proposed solution to go out for public comment.

The vice-chair inquired if a member from the Committee will be able to present this project to the POC during their May or June meeting. Staff explained that, since the project is being sponsored by the Heart Committee, the Heart Committee's vice-chair will present. However, the member that has been leading this effort could be invited to the POC meeting to help answer any questions.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- May 19, 2021 (Teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Emily Perito
  - George Mazariegos
  - Abigail Martin
  - Andy Bonham
  - Brian Feingold
  - Caitlin Shearer
  - Douglas Mogul
  - Jennifer Lau
  - Johanna Mishra
  - John Barcia
  - Kara Ventura
  - Samantha Endicott
  - Shellie Mason
  - Walter Andrews
  - Warren Zuckerman
  - William Dreyer
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Chris Folken
  - Jodi Smith
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Rebecca Brookman
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Betsy Gans
  - Julia Foutz
  - Leah Slife
- **Other Attendees**
  - Joseph Hillenburg
  - Sharon Bartosh