

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
OPTN Model for End- Stage Liver Disease (MELD) Calculation Work Group
Meeting Summary
May 21, 2021
Conference Call**

James Trotter, MD, Chair

Introduction

The OPTN MELD Calculation Work Group (the Work Group) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 05/21/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Re- cap and progress to date
2. Next Steps

The following is a summary of the Work Group's discussions.

1. Re- cap and progress to date

The Workgroup reviewed:

- MELD 3.0: Time-varying covariates
- Adolescent candidates
- Other relevant subgroup analyses

Summary of discussion:

A member explained that a time- varying covariate model would factor in a candidate's updated MELD scores at different time points to assess overall risk of candidate mortality, as opposed to only modeling based off the candidate's MELD score at the time of listing. A member suggested that because the time-varying covariate model considers a candidate's updated MELDs, this model may reflect reality most accurately. This member added that the Work Group might consider the new Pediatric End-Stage Liver Disease (PELD) model that is under development as they work towards a new MELD model. A member noted the impact that access to frequent lab testing may have on a model that uses time- varying covariates. He or she continued that labs are update more frequently for candidates with higher MELD or PELD scores, per OPTN policy, so there would be more observations than those candidates with lower MELD or PELD scores. Another member noted that transplant programs may submit lab values that will result in a higher MELD score for a candidate more frequently which could bias the model. The Work Group came to the consensus that the SRTR data request should include a comparison of MELDNa, MELD 3.0, and MELD with time-varying covariates models. The Work Group also agreed that they should evaluate the fit of the new MELD for adolescent candidates by comparing the MELDNa, MELD 3.0, and MELD with time-varying covariates models.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will develop a data request based upon the discussion during the meeting.

2. Next steps

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff explained that the Work Group will submit the request to compare MELD models, a request to assess the fit of these MELD models for adolescent candidates, and begin considering components of a future liver simulated allocation model (LSAM) model.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 19, 2021

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Peter Abt
 - Sumeet Asrani
 - Kimberly Brown
 - Derek DuBay
 - Julie Heimbach
 - Evelyn Hsu
 - James Markmann
 - Greg McKenna
 - James Pomposelli
 - Jorge Reyes
 - James Trotter
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Michael Conboy
 - Simon Horslen
 - John Lake
 - David Schladt
 - Tim Weaver
 - Andrew Wey
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Julia Foutz
 - Betsy Gans
 - Samantha Noreen
 - Kelley Poff
 - Matt Prentice
 - Niyati Upadhyay
- **Other Attendees**
 - Scott Biggins