

OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

July 2, 2021

Conference Call

James Pomposelli, MD, PhD, Chair

Scott Biggins, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 07/02/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Member Orientation
2. OPTN Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Update
3. Model for End- Stage Liver Disease (MELD) Project update

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

1. New Member Orientation

New July 2021 term members heard an orientation presentation.

Summary of discussion:

This presentation reviewed information on the OPTN governance structure, OPTN policy development process, the OPTN support system, and committee member commitment. New Committee members did not have any additional questions.

2. OPTN Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Update

The Committee received a recap from the BOD meeting on June 14, 2021.

Summary of discussion:

The presenter relayed that *Calculate Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) around Donor Hospital and Update Sorting within Liver Allocation* and *Update National Liver Review Board Guidance Documents and Policy Clarification proposals* were approved by the BOD.

The Committee was also informed that during their meeting on June 14, 2021 the OPTN Executive Committee discussed, but did not support expanding the Committee charter to include all patients with end-stage liver disease. The Committee did not have any questions.

3. Model for End- Stage Liver Disease (MELD) Project update

The Committee received and update on the project to improve the MELD calculation.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if including the sex variable in modeling would adequately address the donor-recipient size-matching disparities for both small men and women. The presenter responded that the addition of a sex variable would decrease the disparity for female candidates but changing allocation to incorporate size-matching is outside the scope of this project. A member added that such biological factors could be included in the continuous distribution allocation model.

A member asked what other variables were considered, but not included. The presenter responded that albumin, creatinine clearance, cystatin- c, estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), height, body surface area, and frailty were considered as variables.

Next steps:

The Workgroup will review the Scientific Registry of Transplant (SRTR) modeling when it becomes available.

Upcoming Meeting

- August 6, 2021

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Peter Abt
 - Sophoclis Alexopoulos
 - Diane Alonso
 - Sumeet Asrani
 - Scott Biggins
 - Derek DuBay
 - Alan Gunderson
 - Jennifer Kerney
 - Shekhar Kubal
 - Allison Kwong
 - James Markmann
 - Greg McKenna
 - Jorge Reyes
 - James Trotter
 - Kym Watt
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Michael Conboy
 - John Lake
 - Andrew Wey
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Roger Brown
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Julia Foutz
 - Savannah Holmes
 - Jennifer Musick