

**OPTN Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee  
Lung Multi-Organ Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
November 12, 2024  
Conference Call**

**Marie Budev, DO, MPH, Chair  
Lisa Stocks, RN, MSN, FNP, Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN Lung Multi-Organ Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via WebEx teleconference on 11/12/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Recap progress to date
2. Request for feedback: Overview
3. Applications of the lung composite allocation score (CAS) threshold
4. Requesting public comment feedback

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

### **1. Recap progress to date**

OPTN contractor staff presented a recap of the progress to date.

#### Summary of Presentation:

- Requested and reviewed data on:
  - Lung multi-organ candidate match run appearances under continuous distribution
  - Risk of waitlist mortality and expected post-transplant survival by lung CAS
- Reviewed data presented to the MOT Committee on:
  - Waiting list outcomes and median time to transplant for lung multi-organ candidates
  - Waiting list and post-transplant survival for classifications included in multi-organ algorithm
  - Median appearances on the match run for multi-organ donors
- Identified preliminary CAS thresholds for further analysis

#### Summary of Discussion:

**The OPTN Lung Multi-Organ Workgroup did not make any decisions.**

No formal discussion occurred.

### **2. Request for feedback: Overview**

OPTN contractor staff presented the request for feedback.

#### Presentation summary:

The objective is to introduce the project and gather initial feedback. In addition to the primary algorithm, the Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee has developed allocation sequences for donors with varying characteristics. The request for feedback will also provide an update on the progress of this workgroup and seek input on the preliminary lung Composite Allocation Score (CAS) thresholds. As the workgroup moves forward, it may consider whether adjustments to the CAS thresholds are necessary for different types of donors.

Summary of discussion:

**The OPTN Lung Multi-Organ Workgroup did not make any decisions.**

The Chair inquired about how the public will perceive this information and the way it will be presented. OPTN contractor staff responded that based on the MOT Committee’s feedback, the request for feedback will assist people in understanding the main approach, with additional details included in the appendices. They emphasized the importance of using patient- and donor-centric language, highlighting opportunities while also providing sufficient information for those who wish to explore the data in depth.

**3. Applications of the lung composite allocation score (CAS) threshold**

OPTN contractor staff presented on potential policy applications of the lung CAS threshold.

Presentation summary:

The workgroup has discussed thresholds for lung CAS as the minimum score a candidate must achieve on the lung match to receive multi-organ offers. These lung CAS thresholds could also serve as criteria for offering lungs from other organ match runs. For instance, to offer lungs to a liver-lung candidate from the liver match, the candidate's lung CAS must be equal to or greater than the established lower threshold.

Summary of discussion:

**The OPTN Lung Multi-Organ Workgroup did not make any decisions.**

The Chair asked if the data include normothermic regional perfusion (NRP) cases and if the data include transplants from the last year. OPTN contractor staff confirmed that the data is through 2023, so it does not include the most recent data which could reflect more utilization of donation after circulatory death (DCD) donors. Additionally, data collection on NRP recovery is not yet implemented in the OPTN Computer System.<sup>1</sup> The Chair noted that NRP cases could be identified by examining the times of cross-clamping. The Chair asked if the workgroup would review information on how heart-lung were allocated, whether by classification or by status. OPTN contractor staff explained that the MOT Committee will be considering a new data request to look at which historical transplants were covered by what the Committee has developed so far, including the heart classifications where heart-lungs were pulled and the instances where the lungs were placed off the lung match run. The Chair also asked if geographic factors were being considered. OPTN contractor staff confirmed that previous analysis looked at the regional breakdown of heart-lung transplants.

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<sup>1</sup> The following data collection was approved by the OPTN Board of Directors on 12/5/2022 but was not implemented as of 11/12/2024: “Enhancements to OPTN Donor Data and Matching System Clinical Data Collection,” OPTN, Policy Notice, accessed November 18, 2024, [https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/uk3nv1ku/policy-notice\\_dn-data-collection\\_opo.pdf](https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/uk3nv1ku/policy-notice_dn-data-collection_opo.pdf).

The Chair emphasized that educating the community about lung thresholds will be crucial, highlighting the importance of understanding the CAS thresholds and the narrative the workgroup aims to establish moving forward. A member raised a concern that establishing a higher CAS threshold for blood type O donors would disadvantage blood type O lung multi-organ candidates. OPTN contractor staff explained that since blood type O candidates receive more points in their lung CAS than candidates of other blood types, the intent of having different thresholds by donor blood type would be to capture a similar proportion of candidates on match runs for each donor blood type. The Workgroup will be able to review data on their next meeting to assess whether the higher threshold for blood type O donors is appropriate.

#### **4. Requesting public comment feedback**

OPTN contractor staff presented on the MOT Committee recommendations for public comment feedback.

##### Presentation summary:

MOT recommendations:

- Articulate the problems (order of priority and operational challenges)
- Story-telling techniques
- Donor and patient centered language
- Graphics and multimedia
- Note diversity of Committee members, systems approach, and difficult compromises
- Limit data and values prioritization exercise results in the body of the paper (include in supplemental materials)
- Note limitations/restrictions (data, current policy)
- Script and frequently asked questions for regional meetings/cross-Committee presentations

##### Summary of discussion:

**The OPTN Lung Multi-Organ Workgroup did not make any decisions.**

The Chair advised that having concrete examples will be very important to help people understand how allocation would work.

#### **Upcoming Meeting**

- December 5, 2024 Teleconference

## Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
  - Marie Budev
  - Lisa Stocks
  - PJ Geraghty
  - JD Menteer
  - Jackie Russe
  - Mathew Hartwig
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
  - Jon Miller
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Viktoria Filatova
  - Chelsea Hawkins
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Sara Langham
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Ross Walton
  - Sarah Roache
  - Houlder Hudgins