

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee  
OPTN Pediatric End-Stage Liver Disease (PELD)/Status 1B Work Group  
Meeting Summary  
October 14, 2021  
Conference Call**

**Evelyn Hsu, MD, Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN PELD/Status 1B Work Group (the Work Group) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 10/14/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Age-Adjusted Mortality Discussion
2. Adolescent Candidates- MELD 3.0 Vs. PELD Cr
3. Encephalopathy Requirements in Status 1A and 1B
4. Status 1B Extension for GI Bleeding

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

### **1. Age- Adjusted Mortality Discussion**

The Work Group discussed the number of points to include in the updated PELD score to account for age-adjusted mortality.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member suggested that points should be added to PELD scores so pediatric patients would receive more priority. A member noted that this solution may not be seen as palatable by the OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee, as it could be considered unfair to adult candidates. A member suggested that the adjustment of these points should be data driven and monitored for effectiveness. UNOS staff reminded the Work Group that some age- adjusted mortality factor is included in PELD Creatinine (Cr). A member commented that unless pediatric candidates can access more organs, the Work Group is only re-shuffling these candidates for the same number of organs. Another member voiced support for adding points to the PELD score to prioritize pediatric candidates and prevent or eliminate waitlist mortality. Some members supported adding ten points to the PELD Cr, as this would give pediatric candidates more access to adult organs and incentivize splitting livers. Other members suggested the addition of three points.

#### Next steps:

The Work Group will present their efforts to- date to the OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee and solicit feedback regarding the addition of points to the PELD Cr.

### **2. Adolescent Candidates – MELD 3.0 vs. PELD Cr**

The Work Group discussed how to handle adolescent candidates under the new Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) and PELD system.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Work Group discussed the best way to update the Median PELD at Transplant (MPaT). One potential solution is to calculate one national MPaT for all PELD candidates. A member asked if excluding adolescents from the calculation or developing a separate MPaT calculation for adolescents had been considered. UNOS staff responded that these options had been considered, but establishing a separate MPaT for adolescents would be difficult to implement, as it requires data on where these candidates are being transplanted for calculation. A member suggested that the Work Group could consider excluding adolescents from the calculation, as there are so few of them. The Work Group determined they would recommend to exclude adolescents for now, but will plan to factor adolescents into the calculation when enough data has been collected. The Work Group recommends no change the MPaT at this time. At time of implementation, adolescent exceptions will be converted to be relative to the MPaT.

The Work Group discussed what exception scores adolescent candidates should be assigned relative to MPaT. A member suggested that adolescents should be assigned the same exception score as the pediatric candidates under 12 years old. Other Work Group members agreed.

The Work Group discussed how to convert non- standard exception scores from Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) to MPaT at the time of implementation. The Work Group recommended that these candidates be converted from their current score relative to MMaT to relative MPaT. The Work Group also determined that they will pull data on the number of adolescent with a non- standard exception score to determine how many candidates this conversion impacts.

Next steps:

The Work Group will present their recommendation to the OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee for feedback.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- TBD (as needed)

## Attendance

- **Work Group Members**
  - Julie Heimbach
  - Allison Kwong
  - Douglas Mogul
  - Emily Perito
  - Evelyn Hsu
  - George Mazariegos
  - John Magee
  - Steven Lobritto
  - Sarah Jane Schwarzenberg
  - Walter Andrews
  - Andy Bonham
  - James Pomposelli
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Adriana Martinez
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - David Schladt
  - Simon Horslen
  - John Lake
  - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Julia Foutz
  - Kelley Poff
  - Matt Prentice
  - Niyati Upadhyay
  - Rebecca Brookman
- **Other Attendees**
  - Nicholas Wood