

**OPTN Policy Oversight Committee
Meeting Summary
September 10, 2025
Teleconference
Erika Lease, MD, Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (“POC” or “the Committee”) met via Teams teleconference on 09/10/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Post-Implementation Review: *Amend Status Extension Requirements in Adult Heart Allocation Policy*
2. Post-Implementation Review: *National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Guidance for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates and Calculate Median Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) at Transplant around the Donor Hospital and Update Sorting within Liver Allocation*
3. New Project Review: *Increase Priority for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates*
4. New Project Review: *Clarify ABO Typing and Subtyping Determination*

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

1. Post-Implementation Review: Amend Status Extension Requirements in Adult Heart Allocation Policy

The Committee met in closed session to review the post-implementation monitoring report for the *Amend Status Extension Requirements in Adult Heart Allocation Policy* project.

Summary of Presentation:

The Heart Transplantation Committee assessment concluded the policy changes successfully achieved the project’s goals:

- Policy changes clarified that to qualify for an extension a candidate needed to experience the same event as their initial assignment
- Monitoring results indicate decreases in number of extensions for criteria of interest, including decreases of 50% for some criteria
- Fewer extensions being submitted translates to less paperwork and potentially more system efficiency
- Members indicated hearing about fewer misunderstandings of extension criteria since implementation

The Heart Committee’s analysis did not identify any unintended consequences, limitations, or mitigating factors. The Heart Committee did not identify any additional opportunities or needs for changes associated with this project.

Summary of Discussion:

The Committee did not have any questions or comments.

2. Post-Implementation Review: National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Guidance for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates and Calculate Median Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) at Transplant around the Donor Hospital and Update Sorting within Liver Allocation

The Committee met in closed session to review the post-implementation monitoring report for the *National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Guidance for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates and Calculate Median Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) at Transplant around the Donor Hospital and Update Sorting within Liver Allocation* projects.

Summary of Presentation:

The Liver and Intestine Transplantation Committee assessment of the *Median Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) at Transplant Around the Donor Hospital and Update Sorting within Liver Allocation* project concluded the policy changes successfully achieved the project's goals by providing candidates with more equitable access to transplant. The Liver Committee did identify the inability to analyze waitlist metrics based on allocation MELD as an unintended consequence of the policy change. No limitations, mitigating factors, or additional opportunities were identified.

The Liver and Intestine Transplantation Committee assessment of the *National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Guidance for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates* project concluded the policy changes successfully achieved the project's goals by increasing the number of exceptions approved for multivisceral transplant (MVT) candidates. However, the Committee concluded there was no significant increase in access to transplant for MVT candidates and there was an increase in MVT candidates with exceptions removed for death or too sick. The Committee identified the small MVT population as a limitation of the analysis. As a result of the Liver Committee's analysis, the Committee is proposing a new project to increase the recommended score for MVT candidates in NLRB guidance.

Summary of Discussion:

The Committee did not have any questions or comments.

3. New Project Review: Increase Priority for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates

The Committee met in closed session to review a new project from the Liver and Intestine Transplantation Committee: *Increase Priority for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates*

Summary of Presentation:

The proposed new project would promote appropriate access to transplant for MVT candidates by updating the NLRB guidance to allow for increased priority through non-standard MELD exceptions. Additionally, the Liver Committee is requesting approval from the OPTN Board of Directors for future NLRB guidance updates to be eligible for the Expedited Actions pathway as outlined in the OPTN Management and Membership Policies.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee voted to recommend the project to the Executive Committee for approval.

12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

The Committee supported the goals of the project and found it met the POC approval criteria. Members commented the project is a reasonable approach while the Liver Committee waits to re-engage with the continuous distribution project. The project was identified assigned a benefit score of 53.

Next Steps:

The project was recommended to the Executive Committee for approval.

4. New Project Review: Clarify ABO Typing and Subtyping Determination

The Committee met in closed session to review a new project from the Histocompatibility Committee: *Clarify ABO Typing and Subtyping Determination*

Summary of Presentation:

The proposed new project aims to increase patient safety by improving OPTN policies and the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System to better identify transfused donors and clarify when molecular ABO testing should be used. Additionally, this project aims to improve blood group A subtyping, which may increase identification of non-A1 donors, increasing access for blood type B and O candidates. The project will consist of policy and guidance to clarify when molecular testing and subtyping should be used. It will also include data collection to collect data on and encourage the proper use of molecular testing.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee voted to recommend the project to the Executive Committee for approval.

11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

The Committee supported the goals of the project and found it met the POC approval criteria. Members commented a potential constraint of the project is availability of molecular typing and suggested seeking community feedback on accessibility to molecular typing in the public comment proposal. The project was identified assigned a benefit score of 100.

Next Steps:

The project was recommended to the Executive Committee for approval.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- October 2, 2025 – Teleconference

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Hannah Copeland
 - Steven Potter
 - Lorrinda Davis
 - Jennifer Prinz
 - Erika Lease
 - Scott Lindberg
 - Kelley Hitchman
 - Lori Markham
 - Lisa Stocks
 - Rachel Miller
 - Ty Dunn
 - Lisa McElroy
 - Jason Huff
 - Neha Bansal
 - Dennis Lyu
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Mesmin Germain
 - Stephanie Grosser
 - Frank Holloman
 - Amy Harbaugh
 - Raymond Lynch
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Cole Fox
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - Jamie Panko
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Eric Messick
 - Carlos Martinez
 - Houlder Hudgins
- **Visting Board Member**
 - Alan Reed
- **Other attendees**
 - Scott Biggins