

## **OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**November 16, 2021**

### **Conference Call**

**James Pomposelli, MD, Chair**

**Scott Biggins, MD, Vice Chair**

#### **Introduction**

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 11/16/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Adolescent Candidates Under MELD 3.0
2. Liver- Intestine Candidates
3. Updated HCC Policy
4. Transition Procedures
5. Review and Vote

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

#### **1. Adolescent Candidates Under MELD 3.0**

The Committee discussed how to handle adolescent candidates under model for end-stage liver disease (MELD) 3.0. Specifically, the Committee considered if adolescent male candidates should be provided the 1.33 points for females in MELD 3.0.

##### Summary of discussion:

The Committee received a presentation comparing adolescent male and female liver transplant candidates to help inform their discussion on how to handle adolescent candidates under MELD 3.0. The data showed no significant difference in height, weight, body mass index (BMI) or body surface area (BSA) between male and female adolescent candidates. In addition, the data did not show a significant difference in rates of removal due to death or too sick for transplant between male and female adolescent candidates. Due to this finding, the Committee determined that the 1.33 points should be provided to both male and female adolescent candidates, as providing the points only to female adolescent candidates would inappropriately disadvantage adolescent male candidates.

The Committee discussed how to transition male adolescent candidates in the context of MELD 3.0. Members agreed that male candidates registered before turning 18 should be provided the 1.33 points and they should keep the points after turning 18, as these candidates represent a different group of diagnoses than adult candidates. Additionally, this is consistent with other pediatric policies which base priority on age at the time of registration.

##### Next steps:

The Committee voted on these changes at the end of the meeting.

#### **2. Liver- Intestine Candidates**

The Committee discussed how to transition liver-intestine candidates from pediatric to adult status.

Summary of discussion:

Members expressed the importance of consistency within policy and determined that liver-intestine points should be based on age at time of registration for whichever organ (liver or intestine) the candidates is registered for first.

Next steps:

The Committee voted on these changes at the end of the meeting.

**3. Updated HCC Policy**

The Committee reviewed updated HCC policy.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee approved the updated HCC policy language.

Next steps:

The Committee voted on these changes at the end of the meeting.

**4. Transition Procedures**

The Committee discussed if any transition procedures are needed for the proposals slated for public comment in January 2022.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee reviewed the predicted observations for the MELD/Pediatric End-Stage Liver Disease (PELD)/Status 1A/1B project and determined that no transition procedures were needed to mitigate disadvantage, as the impacts of the project are intended. The Committee also determined that no transition procedures were needed to mitigate disadvantage for the National Liver Review Board (NLRB) project.

Next steps:

**5. Review and Vote**

The Committee reviewed each proposed change and voted on language to send to public comment.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee voted on the following:

1. Do you support sending the MELD/PELD/Status 1A/1B project out for public comment in January 2022?
  - Support- 16, Abstain- 0, Oppose-0
2. Do you support sending the NLRB project out for public comment in January 2022?
  - Support- 16, Abstain- 0, Oppose-0

Next steps:

The MELD/PELD/Status 1A/1B and NLRB projects will go out for public comment in January 2022.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- December 3, 2021 @ 3 PM ET

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Alan Gunderson
  - Allison Kwong
  - Bailey Heiting
  - Kimberly Brown
  - Greg McKenna
  - James Eason
  - James Trotter
  - James Pomposelli
  - Jorge Reyes
  - Shekhar Kubal
  - Kym Watt
  - Mark Orloff
  - Peter Abt
  - Scott Biggins
  - Sophoclis Alexopoulos
  - Sumeet Asrani
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - David Schladt
  - Katie Audette
  - Tim Weaver
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Jennifer Musick
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Kelley Poff
  - Julia Foutz
  - Leah Slife
  - Matt Prentice
  - Niyati Upadhyay
  - Ron McTier
  - Betsy Gans
- **Other Attendees**
  - Nicolas Wood