

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee  
OPTN Pediatric End-Stage Liver Disease (PELD)/Status 1B Work Group  
Meeting Summary  
August 19, 2021 4:30 PM ET  
Conference Call**

**Evelyn Hsu, MD, Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN PELD/Status 1B Work Group (the Work Group) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 08/19/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Status 1B – MELD/PELD threshold for candidates with chronic liver disease
2. Status within Status 1B
3. Redeveloping MELD-Na: Results for Adolescent Candidates

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

### **1. Status 1B – MELD/PELD threshold for candidates with chronic liver disease**

The Work Group reviewed new data to inform the discussion on updating the Model for End- Stage Liver Disease (MELD)/PELD threshold for candidates with chronic liver disease.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member commented that if the Work Group determined they should recommend lowering the MELD/PELD threshold or completely removing it, a small number of pediatric patients would be affected and that the 1B category would not become overwhelmed. A member asked if the PELD score changes would also change how candidates are ranked within Status 1B and if a PELD score could ever be used as a method for making a decision in the event of a tie. Another member confirmed that the PELD score is not used to further sort within the Status 1B category. The variables used for sorting include wait time at Status 1B and blood type compatibility, in addition to any recommendations made by the Work Group regarding sorting by diagnoses.

A member commented that if the Work Group were to recommend one number as a threshold, this number may need to be updated on a more frequent basis than what is feasible for the OPTN. This member voiced support for removing the threshold so this policy change could remain relevant as the system is modified in the coming years. Other members agreed with the removal of the MELD/PELD threshold.

#### Next steps:

The Work Group will recommend the removal of the MELD/PELD threshold for liver and liver-intestine candidates with chronic liver disease who meet criteria for Status 1B.

### **2. Status within Status 1B**

The Work Group discussed how to sort candidates within Status 1B with an "other" diagnosis.

### Summary of discussion:

The Work Group reviewed Status 1B other diagnoses from forms submitted 2018- 2021. Members observed various types of tumors within this list. A member suggested that the Work Group should move forward with their original plan to establish three categories; chronic liver disease (15 points) tumor (5 points), and metabolic disease (0 points). A member recommended that many of the listed diagnoses fall under the chronic liver disease category. UNOS staff noted that the system is not able to automatically categorize these other diagnoses into one of the three categories and for this reason the Work Group may need to assign a point value to the diagnoses in the other category. A member suggested a multiple choice format that would require clinicians to choose from: 1) chronic liver disease 2) tumor, 3) metabolic disease or 4) other. Another member commented that the diagnoses in the other category should receive no additional points, but may still request an exception. Members agreed that it would be necessary to provide education on the proper categorization of diagnoses.

### Next steps:

The Work Group will recommend that candidates with an “other” diagnosis not be assigned any additional points.

### **3. Redeveloping MELD-Na: Results for Adolescent Candidates**

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) presented the results of redeveloping MELD-Na for adolescent candidates.

### Summary of discussion:

A member asked about the results of this analysis for adults. A SRTR representative responded that generally, results showed that women had better access when sex or height was added to the MELD score. A member noted that the adult analysis focused on rebalancing the current disparity between men and women, but the data shows that the pediatric population does not have significant disparities between sexes so while the projects are similar, the goals differ. A member commented that with the addition of height, priority for both adolescent males and females increases. A member commented that the Work Group might consider aligning themselves with the model selected by the OPTN Improving the Model for End- Stage Liver Disease (MELD) Calculation Work Group. Members agreed that they do not believe the PELD should be capped.

### Next steps:

The Work Group determined they would support using the PELD creatinine score for adolescent candidates.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- September 16, 2021

## Attendance

- **Work Group Members**
  - Regino Gonzalez- Peralta
  - Evelyn Hsu
  - Allison Kwong
  - Steven Lobritto
  - John Magee
  - George Mazariegos
  - Douglas Mogul
  - Emily Perito
  - Jorge Reyes
  - Sara Rasmussen
  - Andy Bonham
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
  - John Lake
  - David Schladt
  - Andrew Wey
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Julia Foutz
  - Kelley Poff
  - Niyati Upadhyay
  - Leah Slife