Updates to National Liver Review Board Guidance (NLRB) & Further Alignment with Liver Imaging Reporting and Data System (LI-RADS)

OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee James Pomposelli, Past Committee Chair



Purpose of Proposal

- Update the Adult Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) Exception Review guidance documents and Adult Transplant Oncology guidance documents and develop score recommendations for certain diagnoses.
- Align NLRB Operational Guidelines to the implementation of the Adult Transplant Oncology Review Board, replacing the Adult Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) Review Board, to be implemented in February 2025.
- Change Policy 9.5.I Requirements for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) MELD or PELD Score Exceptions to add contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) as an acceptable adjunct diagnostic imaging tool for a standard HCC exception.

Update Guidance

- Provide clear and relevant updates to certain diagnoses in guidance to evaluate requests for nonstandard exceptions.
- Specific score recommendations are added, to ensure more consistent case review among different reviewers for the same conditions.



Guidance Updates: Adult Other Diagnoses

Condition	Recommended Score
Budd Chiari	MMaT-3
Hepatic Hydrothorax	MMaT-3
Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia	MMaT-3 or MMaT (ongoing complications)
Polycystic Liver Disease	MMaT
Portopulmonary Hypertension	Removed from Guidance
Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis and Secondary Sclerosing Cholangitis	Criteria for MMaT-3 AND MMaT
Metabolic Disease	MMaT-3 or higher
Early Allograft Dysfunction (EAD) in Reduced Size Livers (Small for Size Syndrome)	Criteria for calculated MELD AND MMat
Diffuse Ischemic Cholangiopathy and Late Vascular Complications	MMaT-3

Guidance Updates: Adult Transplant Oncology

Condition	Recommended Score
Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)	N/A
Neuroendocrine Tumors	MMaT-3
Hepatic Epithelioid Hemangioendothelioma	MMaT-3
Hepatic Adenomas	MMaT-3

Update NLRB Operational Guidelines

 Changes language to ensure that all adult exception requests are submitted to ensure appropriate expertise in the review process.



Add CEUS as part of HCC diagnostic option in Policy

- Language and chart in Policy 9.5.I.vi Imaging Requirements for Class 5
 Lesions, modified to allow for contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) as an
 additional imaging option to create a pathway for automatic standard HCC
 exception approval.
- Submission of biopsy results remains in policy and can still be submitted instead of CT, MRI, or CEUS results.
- LI-RADS 5 added as a reference for HCC criteria in Adult Transplant
 Oncology Guidance

Rationale

- Provide updated guidance aligned medical and clinical standards to retain currency and equity in MELD and PELD exception scores.
- Provide clarity in policy through direct reference to LIRADS-5 criteria.
- Allow an additional diagnostic imaging option (CEUS) to align with LIRADS terminology.

What do you think?

- Do you agree with the proposed guidance and score recommendations for each condition listed? If not, please elaborate.
- Are there other exception requests related to liver cancers or tumors that should be addressed by either of the Adult Transplant Oncology Review Board or the Adult MELD Exception Review Board and associated guidance documents?
- Do you agree with the addition of contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) as an optional imaging option to provide a pathway to automatic standard HCC exception approval in Policy 9.5.I?
- Do pediatric practitioners incorporate LIRADS-5 criteria into case management?
 If not, what system or categories should be used to classify pediatric HCC?

Additional Questions?

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Provide Feedback

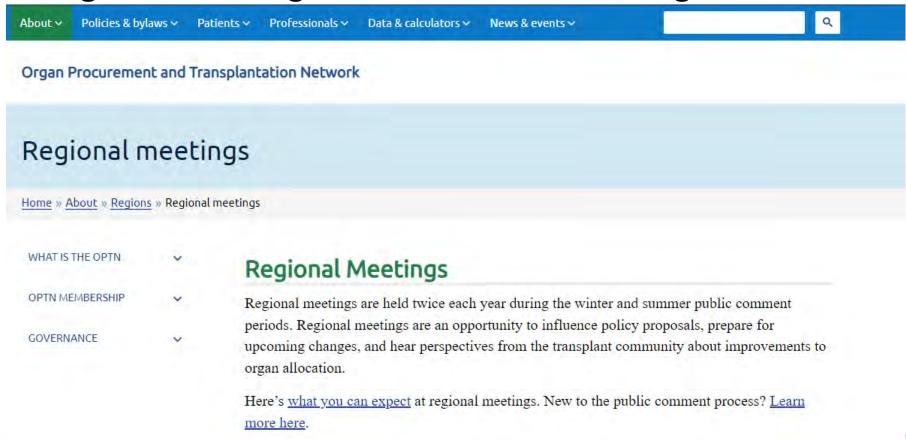
Submit public comments on the OPTN website

- January 21 March 19, 2025
- optn.transplant.hrsa.gov



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Thank You For Listening!