

**OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
September 27, 2021
Conference Call**

**Dr. Erika D. Lease, MD, Chair
Dr. Marie Budev, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Lung Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 09/27/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review Updates for the September 30th implementation of changes to lung allocation scores (LAS)

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

1. Review Updates for the September 30th implementation of changes to lung allocation scores (LAS)

As part of the approved projects, *Updated Cohort for Calculation of the Lung Allocation and Refine Lung Data Fields*, a number of covariates were removed or changed for waitlist and post-transplant which made an impact to LAS. These changes will be implemented on September 30, 2021. The SRTR models used to inform the changes align with what is being observed and most patients have small changes to their LAS, but there are some outliers. Overall, LAS decreased by diagnosis group, age, and serum creatinine, but patients are predicted to survive longer on the waiting list and predicted to survive longer post-transplant.

Summary of discussion:

A member noted that there is a lot of information to piece together and after reviewing the data, some of the outcomes are not necessarily what they expected. The member asked clarification for the rationale behind removing serum creatinine, and if it was due to seeing better survival overall. It was clarified that if the patients are doing better post-transplant their LAS goes up and if they are surviving longer on the waiting list, that drives their LAS down. The Chair mentioned that the magnitude of the change of the coefficients also changed for waitlist mortality and post-transplant survival. The Vice Chair stated that when the new variables were defined, serum creatinine on the waitlist lowered, but increased for post-transplant. They also noted that all of the candidates are shifting, so more time is needed to see how that will have an effect, but it does seem that creatinine is going to play a larger role and if post-transplant survival has an equal weighting to waitlist mortality in the future it is going to be an even bigger factor.

The Committee also discussed the changed coefficients (negative to positive) for some values in the post-transplant survival rate calculation. It was explained that, in the newer model, in order to maintain consistency, the values needed to be revised and when viewed overall, they did not amount to a significant change.

Additionally, the Committee addressed the outliers on the graphs. Members noted that, due to the increased weighting of creatinine in post-transplant survival rate, the three candidates lost a significant

number of points. The presenter added that, though SRTR will be looking into how to account for these cases, these are the candidates that centers may be considering exceptions for. Members agreed that the Lung Review Board should be notified since they may see an increase in exception requests. It was also noted that the outliers were all multi-organ candidates, and if they were to be transplanted, they would not have a high post-transplant survival likelihood. Members did express minor concern about unintended consequences for lowering the priority of these multi-organ candidates, even though the Committee acknowledged the rate of occurrence was quite low. A member asked when a safety net for lung would be implemented and it was clarified that the overall goal for the Ad-Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee is to have a public comment proposal for the next round of public comment.

A member asked if an even more pronounced difference should be expected with continuous distribution and the Committee expressed an interest in seeing a second review of the data prior to the implementation of continuous distribution since they found this review very helpful.

Upcoming Meeting

- October 21-22, 2021 (Committee, virtual in-person)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Erika Lease, Chair
 - Marie Budev, Vice Chair
 - Cynthia Gries
 - Denny Lyu
 - Errol Bush
 - John Reynolds
 - Marc Schechter
 - Pablo Sanchez
 - Whitney Brown
 - Karen Lord
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
 - David Schladt
 - Maryam Valapour
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Holly Sobczak
 - James Alcorn
 - Janis Rosenberg
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Sara Rose Wells
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Tatenda Mupfudze
 - Elizabeth Miller
 - Leah Slife
 - Nicole Benjamin
- **Other Attendees**
 - Alan Betensley
 - Dave Weimer
 - Paul Gunsalus