

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

### **Meeting Summary**

**September 3, 2021**

**Conference Call**

**James Pomposelli, MD, PhD, Chair**

**Scott Biggins, MD, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 09/03/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Establishing Continuous Distribution of Lungs: Effect on Multi-Organ Allocation
2. Update on OPTN Regional Review Project
3. Incorporating a sex variable into the MELD score
4. Public Comment Update

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

#### **1. Establishing Continuous Distribution of Lungs: Effect on Multi-Organ Allocation**

The Committee received a presentation on the effect of lung continuous distribution on multi-organ allocation.

##### Summary of discussion:

A member confirmed that this project has already undergone Thoracic Organ Transplantation Allocation Model (TSAM) modeling and is currently out for the Summer 2021 OPTN public comment period.

#### **2. Update on OPTN Regional Review Project**

The Committee received a presentation on the OPTN regional review project.

##### Summary of discussion:

A member asked if there is a perception that the current regional representation is unbalanced. The presenter responded that over the years, the OPTN has received feedback that there is variation in representation from region to region in terms of landmass, number of states, number of patients, and population. A member commented that they would prefer that this project not disrupt the well-established working relationships among transplant centers and OPOs. Another member added that the changes in allocation have encouraged their transplant program to form new relationships with OPOs. This member also suggested that the OPTN could look into current transplant programs and OPO relationships and provide the opportunity for these members to attend each other's regional meetings and continue their successful collaborative relationships. The presenter responded that the OPTN has looked at a network analysis and that relationships seem to vary based on organ type. A member noted that some of the presented models may decrease member's voice on the Board of Directors (BOD). Another member agreed and reported that they would like to see regions have additional representation and authority.

Next steps:

The Committee will submit feedback on *Update on OPTN Regional Review Project* to the OPTN Public Comment website.

**3. Incorporating a sex variable into the MELD score**

The Committee discussed how to define biological sex in the updated Model for End- Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score

Summary of discussion:

A member reported that they spoke with a gender minority representation subject matter expert who is also a nephrologist. This SME suggested the Committee consider “Sex at time of birth as listed on the original birth certificate” as a data field. The SME felt this would be the most accurate way to approach these special cases because muscle mass and creatinine are related to patient biology.

A member asked if a method should be developed for determining if a person who is transitioning or has transitioned should be biologically recognized as the sex with which they identify. Another member agreed with using “Sex at time of birth as listed on the original birth certificate”. For those who have had hormone treatments, they suggested documenting how long the patient has been on the hormone along with their testosterone and estrogen levels. Members suggested calling upon SMEs for the continuation of this conversation.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue this discussion at a future meeting.

**4. Public Comment Update**

The Committee received a brief update on their public comment proposal.

Summary of discussion:

There was no discussion.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to monitor *Review of National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Diagnoses and Update to Alcohol-Associated Diagnoses*. The Summer 2021 OPTN public comment period is open until September 30, 2021.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- October 1, 2021

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Peter Abt
  - Sophoclis Alexopoulos
  - Diane Alonso
  - Sumeet Asrani
  - Scott Biggins
  - Kimberly Brown
  - Derek DuBay
  - Alan Gunderson
  - Shekhar Kubal
  - Allison Kwong
  - Ray Lynch
  - Peter Matthews
  - James Markmann
  - Greg Mckenna
  - Mark Orloff
  - James Pomposelli
  - Jorge Reyes
  - Kym Watt
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
  - Ryutaro Hirose
  - John Lake
  - Tim Weaver
  - Andrew Wey
- **UNOS Staff**
  - James Alcorn
  - Nicole Benjamin
  - Julia Foutz
  - Betsy Gans
  - Joel Newman
  - Kelley Poff
  - Matthew Prentice
- **Other Attendees**
  - Erica Lease (OPTN Lung Transplantation Vice Chair)