

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
OPTN Pediatric End-Stage Liver Disease (PELD)/Status 1B Work Group
Meeting Summary
September 16, 2021
Conference Call**

Evelyn Hsu, MD, Chair

Introduction

The OPTN PELD/Status 1B Work Group (the Work Group) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 09/16/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project Progress Review
2. Status 1A Encephalopathy Requirement
3. PELD- CR vs. MELD 3.0

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

1. Project Progress Review

The Work Group reviewed progress to date.

Summary of discussion:

The Work Group reviewed their recommendation to use PELD- Creatinine (Cr) for adolescent candidates (ages 12-17). Another member confirmed the model had the same accuracy when predicting mortality for older and younger adolescent candidates. A member advised that the Work Group track any differences in outcomes for adolescent boys and adolescent girls to determine if one sex is more advantaged than the other. A member asked about a future monitoring plan for this change. A member responded that the sponsoring committees will examine a variety of metrics such as transplant rate, waitlist mortality, and post- transplant outcomes. UNOS research added that a monitoring plan will be included in the proposal and reports will be presented to the sponsoring committees every six months for two years. A member confirmed that PELD-Cr would be uncapped.

The Work Group reviewed their recommendations for Status 1B. A member confirmed that for liver alone, a calculated Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD)/PELD score must be used, while either adjusted or calculated MELD/PELD score may be used for liver- intestine. A member suggested that the Glasgow coma score (GCS) should have yes/no response options as opposed to a numeric response, as the scoring system for GCS is not used very often for 1B. UNOS IT commented that in order to meet requirements for *Policy 9.1.C.2.c: Pediatric 1B Requirements* one of four criteria must be met, so entering a GCS may not always be necessary.

Next steps:

The Work Group will present these recommendations to the OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee at their upcoming meeting.

2. Status 1A Encephalopathy Requirement

The Work Group discussed removing the encephalopathy requirement for Status 1A pediatric candidates.

Summary of discussion:

A member commented that because there is very little criteria for diagnosing encephalopathy in kids, the process lack objectivity. This member continued that often pediatric candidates do not present with encephalopathic symptoms until they are in a severe condition. A member cited a recent study in which 15% of the pediatric study population had acute liver failure, but were not diagnosed with encephalopathy. For these reasons, the Work Group considered eliminating the encephalopathy criteria from Pediatric Status 1A Requirements.

Next steps:

The Work Group will continue this discussion at a future meeting.

3. PELD- CR vs. MELD 3.0

The Work Group received a presentation from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) on PELD-Cr vs. MELD 3.0.

Summary of discussion:

A member commented that after implementation the Work Group should develop a plan to reassess the adjustment factor in the PELD-Cr and determine if it should be recalculated. A member commented that the LSAM modeling for this project will have limitations, as the new PELD scores will not be incorporated. Another member commented that variables could be incorporated into continuous distribution for livers.

Next steps:

The Work Group will await modeling by the SRTR.

Upcoming Meeting

- October 14, 2021

Attendance

- **Work Group Members**
 - Regino Gonzalez- Peralta
 - Allison Kwong
 - Douglas Mogul
 - Emily Perito
 - Jorge Reyes
 - Sara Rasmussen
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
 - Andy Bonham
 - John Lake
 - David Schladt
 - Andrew Whey
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Rebecca Brookman
 - Julia Foutz
 - Betsy Gans
 - Kelley Poff
 - Matthew Prentice
 - Leah Slife
 - Niyati Upadhyay
- **Other Attendees**
 - Nicolas Wood