

OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

February 4, 2022

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 02/04/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Presentation: Redesign Map of OPTN Regions
2. Review Status 1A/1B Exception Review Process
3. Continuous Distribution: Identification and Categorization of Attributes

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

1. Public Comment Presentation: Redesign Map of OPTN Regions

The Committee heard a presentation of the OPTN Executive Committee's concept paper.

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested the Executive Committee consider having more than one regional representative per region should the community support a map with fewer regions. A member asked for clarification on what issues a regional redesign would address. The presenter explained that the community is being asked to assess the current OPTN regions and voice any changes that should or should not be made. While assessing the regions is the requirement, changing the regions is not. A member suggested that regions should be based upon how allocation has changed and consider transplant center and Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) performance. Another member noted the importance of preserving current transplant center and OPO working relationships. A member voiced concern about the timing of the redesign and the potential for reduction in regional representation. Another member agreed and pointed out that this project does not consider waiting list access or access for vulnerable populations. Staff and a representative from HRSA clarified that this project is a contract requirement.

Next steps:

Feedback will be summarized and the Committee will post an official comment on Redesign Map of OPTN Regions on the OPTN public comment website.

2. Review Status 1A/1B Exception Review Process

The Committee heard an overview of the process and discussed opportunities for improvement.

Summary of discussion:

A member noted the need for additional pediatric expertise on the Status 1A/1B Subcommittee. Another member suggested that if a reviewer receives a case that is pediatric or otherwise outside their area of practice, an expert in that specialty should review the case. A member suggested that a separate subcommittee should be formed for reviewing pediatric cases. Members discussed creating a way to

submit exception requests for high MELD or PELD candidates that are reviewed retrospectively which would allow the candidate to access the requested score immediately.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to discuss potential improvements to the Status 1A/1B exception review process during a future meeting.

3. Continuous Distribution: Identification and Categorization of Attributes

The Committee discussed how various attributes could fit into continuous distribution goals.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if an attribute could fall under more than one goal. Staff responded that if the Committee could place attributes in multiple categories if they see fit, but the categories really serve as a way to encourage consistency and analyze outcomes in the future. A member asked how varying exceptions would be weighted. He or she gave an example that medical urgency for HCC exception candidates may be weighted differently than other liver exception candidates. A member confirmed that there is an opportunity to include donor characteristics in the liver and intestine continuous distribution model.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to discuss continuous distribution during future meetings.

Upcoming Meeting

- March 4, 2022 @ 3:00 PM ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alan Gunderson
 - Allison Kwong
 - Derek DuBay
 - Greg McKenna
 - James Markmann
 - Kym Watt
 - Mark Orloff
 - Peter Abt
 - Peter Matthews
 - Ray Lynch
 - Scott Biggins
 - Shekhar Kubal
 - Sumeet Asrani
 - James Trotter
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - James Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - John Lake
 - Katie Audette
 - Nick Wood
 - Ryutaro Hirose
 - Tim Weaver
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Matt Cafarella
 - James Alcorn
 - Kelley Poff
 - Betsy Gans
 - Joel Newman
 - Julia Foutz
 - Liz Robbins
 - Megan Oley
 - Niyati Upadhyay