

**OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
August 22, 2024
Conference Call**

**Rachel Engen, MD, Chair
Neha Bansal, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Pediatric Transplantation Committee met via WebEx teleconference on 8/22/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Continuous Distribution of Livers and Intestines Update
2. Continuous Distribution of Hearts Update
3. Continuous Distribution of Pancreata Update
4. Open Forum

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

1. Continuous Distribution of Livers and Intestines Update

The [Continuous Distribution of Livers and Intestines Update](#) is available for public feedback from July 19, 2024 to September 24, 2024.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made.

The Committee discussed the future incorporation of Body Surface Area (BSA) into the liver allocation system. While Body Surface Area (BSA) should be incorporated, there are concerns that increased allocation priority for women would decrease access for teenage pediatric candidates, as their pools of acceptable donors would overlap. It will be important to balance allocation priority needs via mathematical optimization, so that pediatric patients do not become unfairly disadvantaged.

Additionally, Pediatric Committee members recommended that the Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee consider how split livers may be incorporated into the allocation system. Splitting livers creates the opportunity for more candidates to be transplanted.

Next steps:

The Committee will provide feedback via the OPTN website on this public comment item.

2. Continuous Distribution of Hearts Update

The [Continuous Distribution of Hearts Update](#) is available for public feedback from July 19, 2024 to September 24, 2024.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made.

The Committee was concerned that outcomes are not planned to be included in Heart CD attributes; post-transplant outcomes are critically important to the pediatric transplant community. The presenter explained that post-transplant outcomes likely will not factor into the future allocation system as they are difficult to predict, however, transplant doctors remain committed to achieving good outcomes through thoughtful offer evaluation.

The Committee was encouraged to hear that candidates grouped in Status 1A will be separated out on a continuous scale. Medical urgency varies widely among pediatric Status 1A candidates, therefore, candidates with the greatest medical urgency are not adequately prioritized.

Next steps:

The Committee will provide feedback via the OPTN website on this public comment item.

3. Continuous Distribution of Pancreata Update

The Committee was unable to hear this presentation due to time constraints.

Next steps:

The Committee will hear the Continuous Distribution of Pancreata Update on September 17, 2024.

4. Open Forum

There were no open forum speakers.

Upcoming Meeting

- September 17, 2024, 8:30 AM-3 PM ET
- October 24, 2024, 4-5 PM ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Rachel Engen
 - Neha Bansal
 - Emily Perito
 - Aaron Wightman
 - Gonzalo Wallis
 - Jennifer Vittorio
 - JoAnn Morey
 - Sonya Kirmani
 - Meelie Debroy
 - Melissa McQueen
 - Namrata Jain
 - Daniel Ranch
 - Reem Raafat
 - Shawn West
 - Carol Wittlieb-Weber
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - James Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - N/a
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Leah Nunez
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Dzhuliyana Handarova
 - Eric Messick
 - James Alcorn
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Sarah Roache
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
- **Other Attendees**
 - Jennifer Lau
 - Joseph Brownlee
 - Rocky Daly
 - Oyedolamu K Olaitan
 - Shimul Shah