

**OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Subcommittee**

August 21, 2025

Conference Call

Neil Shah, MD, Chair

Introduction

The OPTN National Liver Review Board Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via WebEx teleconference on 08/21/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Multivisceral Transplant (MVT) Guidance Update

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

1. Multivisceral Transplant (MVT) Guidance Update

The Subcommittee discussed updating the score recommendation in National Liver Review Board (NLRB) guidance for MVT candidates.

Summary of discussion:

The Subcommittee recognized that, despite previous guidance allowing for an initial exception score of median MELD at transplant (MMaT) plus six with a three point increase every 90 days, many MVT candidates continued to have inadequate access to appropriate organ offers. The central issue identified was that the pancreas was often allocated to other candidates before MVT candidates could be considered, regardless of their MELD score or clinical need. A member reminded the Subcommittee that MVT candidates need access to very high-quality organs. Another member stated that the upcoming proposal from the Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee may help improve MVT access. The member added that updating the NLRB guidance would provide a faster solution.

Several members shared real-world examples illustrating how the current allocation process resulted in missed opportunities for MVT candidates, even when they reached high MELD scores through exception pathways. It was noted that a way to improve access for this small and highly vulnerable candidate population was to ensure they were consistently prioritized at the top of the match run.

The Subcommittee discussed adjustments to the score recommendation in NLRB guidance for MVT candidates. A member suggested recommending a score of MMaT plus 12 for the initial exception. Members agreed that there is not much of a difference between MMaT plus 12 and MELD 40. During the discussion, several members advocated for a MELD score of 40 for all MVT candidates, citing that this is the only specific score that can be requested within the NLRB system. The group agreed that the primary issue is access rather than urgency, and that assigning the top score to all MVT candidates would be an equitable and effective interim solution until broader policy changes are implemented.

The Subcommittee also considered whether to stratify recommendations based on clinical severity or diagnosis but ultimately determined that the MVT population is both small and heterogeneous, making such stratification unnecessarily complex and potentially inequitable. Members agreed that a MELD score of 40 for all MVT candidates would maximize opportunities for organ offers, particularly for the

pancreas, and would help mitigate the access problem until broader policy changes could be implemented.

Additionally, members agreed that by assigning the highest possible score, MVT candidates would be more visible and prioritized in the allocation process, making it easier for OPOs to allocate the pancreas to these candidates. This approach was seen as a straightforward, tangible solution that could be enacted quickly and would not significantly disrupt the overall system due to the small number of affected candidates. The Subcommittee reached consensus on recommending a MELD score of 40 for all MVT candidates and agreed to present this recommendation to the full Committee at the next meeting.

Next steps:

The Subcommittee will provide this recommendation for Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee consideration.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 18, 2025

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Aaron Ahearn
 - Allison Kwong
 - Cal Matsumoto
 - Chris Sonnenday
 - Mike Kriss
 - Neil Shah
 - Shimul Shah
 - Vanessa Cowan
- **SRTR Staff**
 - David Schladt
 - Jack Lake
 - Simon Horslen
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alina Martinez
 - Ben Schumacher
 - Joel Newman
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Tory Boffo