

OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

September 5, 2025

Conference Call

Scott Biggins, MD, Chair

Shimul Shah, MD, MHCM, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Microsoft Teams teleconference on 09/05/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Presentation: *Establish a Comprehensive Multi-Organ Allocation Policy 2025*, Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee
2. Including Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD) Donors in Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Calculations Data Request

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

1. Public Comment Presentation: *Establish a Comprehensive Multi-Organ Allocation Policy 2025*, Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee

The Committee provided feedback on the Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee's proposal, *Establish a Comprehensive Multi-Organ Allocation Policy 2025*.

Summary of discussion:

Members discussed the proposed multi-organ allocation tables tailored to various donor types, emphasizing the need for a standardized and transparent process that prioritizes medical urgency and special populations.

The Chair asked whether this proposal is expected to impact out of sequence allocation. The Chair suggested that the MOT Committee consider incorporating evaluation metrics related to out of sequence allocation in the monitoring plans. The Chair asked if the OPO Committee was involved in the development of this project. The presenter stated that there have been OPO representative involvement. The presenter explained that the main concern of the OPO community is implementation and the type of support tools to help OPO users use these allocation plans. The Committee acknowledged the importance of user-friendly IT tools to support OPOs and stressed the need for ongoing monitoring to assess the impact on vulnerable groups, such as pediatric patients.

Several members, including representatives from OPOs, voiced concerns about the practical implementation of these changes, especially regarding expedited or late allocations. The presenter stated that late reallocation is not covered in this proposal. The presenter stated that it is likely an area of improvement. The presenter added that feedback from the OPO community is that if policy becomes too restrictive it may prohibit OPO's ability for efficient expedited placement allocation. The member stated that the biggest challenge is when a liver-kidney candidate is not able to access the kidney because the OPO has already offered the kidney to a kidney-only candidate that is not consistent with the order of the match run.

A member noted that changes with DCD allocation may present problems with the proposed MOT allocation plans. The member stated that the field of DCD is constantly changing. The presenter agreed and acknowledge that it will likely change as acceptance behavior changes

Next steps:

The Committee will submit their feedback to the MOT Committee for consideration.

2. Including Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD) Donors in Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Calculations Data Request

The Committee reviewed a report for their data request to include donation after circulatory death (DCD) donors in the median MELD at transplant (MMaT) calculation.

Data summary:

- DCD transplants increased from 10.8% to 38% between January 2022 and February 2025.
- Including DCD donors would lower a national MMaT from 30 to 28

Summary of discussion:

The Committee's discussion centered on whether to include DCD donors in MMaT calculations, given the significant increase in DCD transplants over recent years. Members debated whether exception points should be adjusted to avoid disadvantaging certain candidate groups and highlighted the need for further analysis, such as simulation modeling and match run analysis, to fully understand the implications. The Committee also discussed technical aspects of MMaT calculation, such as donor exclusion criteria based on distance. Throughout the meeting, members emphasized the importance of transparency, data-driven decision-making, and careful monitoring to ensure that any potential policy changes achieve their intended goals without unintended negative consequences.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to determine a path forward for the project idea.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 19, 2025 at 2 pm ET (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Aaron Ahearn
 - Allison Kwong
 - Cal Matsumoto
 - Chris Sonnenday
 - Joseph DiNorcia
 - Kathy Campbell
 - Marina Serper
 - Michael Kriss
 - Neil Shah
 - Scott Biggins
 - Shimul Shah
 - Vanessa Pucciarelli
- **SRTR Staff**
 - David Schladt
 - Jack Lake
 - Katie Siegert
 - Nick Wood
 - Ryo Hirose
 - Simon Horslen
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alina Martinez
 - Andrew Klein
 - Benjamin Schumacher
 - Betsy Gans
 - Joel Newman
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Tory Boffo