

OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Subcommittee

September 18, 2025

Conference Call

Neil Shah, MD, Chair

Introduction

The OPTN National Liver Review Board Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via WebEx teleconference on 09/18/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Dual-listing & non-standard exceptions
2. Refine Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Calculation

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

1. Multivisceral Transplant (MVT) Guidance Update

The Subcommittee discussed feedback from a community member regarding candidates with exceptions that are dual-listed.

Summary of discussion:

The Subcommittee reviewed feedback from a community member that expressed concerns for when a dual-listed candidate receives different exception scores at each transplant program. The member advocated that the assigned exception score should be based on morbidity/mortality risk and not dependent on the transplant program or the NLRB peer review group. The member proposed that among those that are dual-listed for liver transplant at two transplant programs, and receive an exception score with one institution, the second institution should be able to list their candidate with the same score without requiring peer review by the NLRB.

The Subcommittee discussed the implications of one exception for dual-listed candidates including privacy, security and data ownership, and determining timeframes for requirements and calculations such as data updates, waiting time, and extensions. Members expressed other concerns about automatic approval given that clinical scenarios could change between listings. A member stated that exception information is not known unless the original listing transplant program provides it.

Members agreed that this problem seems more related to how justification narratives are written rather than a system process issue. The Subcommittee discussed the potential to recommend a section be added to NLRB guidance that states if a candidate is dual-listed and their clinical scenario has not changed, then similar exceptions should be granted to both transplant programs. Members expressed concerns with how to confirm whether a candidate is dual-listed. A member stated these are rare occurrences and it might not be beneficial to devote resources to verifying reports of dual-listing within justification narratives.

The Subcommittee agreed not to pursue any changes but will revisit the topic should other concerns arise.

Next steps:

The Subcommittee will keep this topic on their radar for potential future NLRB updates, if needed.

2. Refine Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Calculation

The Committee discussed refining the MMaT calculation.

Summary of discussion:

The Subcommittee reviewed the current MMaT calculation (Policy 9.4.D) and discussed changing any of the qualifying criteria.

A member stated that the majority of their transplant program's transplants are from DCD donors. The member stated that they cannot think of a reason why DCD should be excluded from the MMaT calculation. Members agreed that DCD transplants should be included in the MMaT calculation.

A member asked if the purpose of updating the MMaT calculation is for increased transparency into the median MELD at transplant then all transplants should be included. The member asked how many transplants occur outside of the 500 NM range. Another member responded that data shows that about 10% of transplants occur outside of the 500 NM range. Another member stated that 500 NM is the biggest allocation circle. The member stated that if the calculation is supposed to align with the allocation tables, then there is not much reason to expand the calculation to more than 500 NM. The member stated that if the distance was expanded to all transplants, then it would become a national median MELD. Members agreed that the calculation should continue to be capped at transplants performed within 500 NM.

The Subcommittee had no edits to the previously reviewed data request but expressed interest in future analyses on impacts to outcomes with potential MMaT calculation changes.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 20, 2025

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Allison Kwong
 - Joe DiNorcia
 - Mike Kriss
 - Neil Shah
 - Shimul Shah
 - Vanessa Cowan
- **SRTR Staff**
 - David Schladt
 - Jack Lake
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Ben Schumacher
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Meghan McDermott