

**OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
September 14, 2023
Conference Call
Marie Budev, DO, Chair
Matthew Hartwig, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Lung Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Webex teleconference on 9/14/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and agenda
2. Review public comment feedback on *Modify Lung Allocation by Blood Type*
3. Discussion of public comment feedback and consideration of post-public comment changes
4. VOTE: Do you support sending the proposal to the OPTN Board of Directors for approval at their 9/22 meeting?
5. Next steps and closing comments

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

1. Welcome and agenda

The Vice Chair welcomed Committee members.

Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion by the Committee.

2. Review public comment feedback on *Modify Lung Allocation by Blood Type*

The Vice Chair reviewed public comment feedback on [Modify Lung Allocation by Blood Type](#) with the Committee. He explained the proposal received an overall sentiment score of 4.7 out of 5, with participation from all member types and regions.

Themes highlighted throughout public comment were:

- Support for:
 - Proposed rating scale adjustment
 - Rapid implementation of the proposed changes
 - Continued close monitoring of the policy
- Concern about:
 - Giving too many points for blood type O relative to other blood types
 - Giving too many points for blood type O relative to other parts of the score
 - Reduction of blood type O lungs to non-blood type O recipients
 - Blood type O candidates being disadvantaged while the proposal is under consideration

The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplant (ISHLT) submitted a comment following the closure of the public comment period.¹ The society requested information on the increase in transplants for blood type B and how using an older Thoracic Simulated Allocation Model (TSAM) may have influenced results. The society recommended showing updated modeling of the transplant rate metric and voiced concern about the public comment timeline and the process.

The Vice Chair provided an overview of the proposed monitoring plan. The Committee will monitor the blood type change three months post-implementation, and further monitoring will be incorporated into the ongoing [Establish Continuous Distribution of Lungs](#) monitoring. The analyses will compare metrics from before implementation of continuous distribution of lungs, under continuous distribution of lungs with the previous blood type rating scale, and under continuous distribution of lungs with the updated blood type rating scale.

The proposed monitoring plan for [Modify Lung Allocation by Blood Type](#) includes:

- Number of candidates ever waiting by blood type
- Number of waiting list removals for death or too sick by blood type
- Median waiting time for transplant by blood type
- Number of transplants by recipient blood type
- Number of transplants by recipient blood type and diagnosis group
- Number of transplants by donor blood type and recipient blood type
- Distribution of medical urgency points at the time of transplant by recipient blood type
- Distribution of distance traveled by recipient blood type
- Post-transplant outcomes by recipient blood type

Summary of Discussion:

Decision #1: The Committee decided additional monitoring of this proposal is needed prior to three months post-implementation. The Committee requested to review the number of transplants by recipient blood type; the number of waiting list removals for death or too sick by blood type; and median lung composite allocation score (CAS) at time of transplant at more frequent intervals as sample sizes allow.

The Past Chair commented in response to the ISHLT public comment that it is difficult to have a rapid response to the problem if there are requests for extended public comment periods. The Vice Chair suggested that monitoring should occur more frequently, for example, one month and two months post-implementation. Members agreed. Members suggested looking at number of transplants by recipient blood type and median composite allocation score (CAS) at time of transplant one-month post-implementation. Members acknowledged that further stratifications of the data may not be available until future monitoring reports based on sample size. A member requested comparing the monitoring report data to what the models predicted. Staff responded that this can be done as well.

3. Discussion of public comment feedback and consideration of post-public comment changes

The Committee discussed additional comments and questions regarding the public comment feedback.

¹ Per OPTN Bylaws Article XI: Adoption of Policies, "Comments received after the end of the set public comment period may be reviewed and addressed at the discretion of the Chair of the sponsoring Committee."

Summary of discussion:

Decision #2: The Committee agreed the proposed rating scale is the best option to move forward to the OPTN Board of Directors for approval.

A member commented the main concern seems to be that blood type O candidates will gain too many points through this proposal. The member commented this is a subjective comment and the modeling indicates this rating scale is the best choice. Members agreed, and suggested the monitoring will show whether this is the case.

4. VOTE: Do you support sending the proposal to the OPTN Board of Directors for approval at their 9/22 meeting?

The Committee voted on sending the proposal to OPTN Board of Directors for approval on September 22, 2023.

Summary of discussion:

Decision #3: The Committee unanimously approved sending the proposal to the OPTN Board of Directors for approval (12-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

5. Next steps and closing comments

The OPTN Board of Directors is scheduled to vote on implementing the proposal on September 22, 2023. If approved, implementation of these changes would occur on September 27, 2023.

Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion by the Committee.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 27, 2023, in-person, 8:00am CT

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Erika Lease
 - Brian Keller
 - David Erasmus
 - Ed Cantu
 - Jackie Russe
 - Julia Klesney-Tait
 - Katja Fort Rhoden
 - Matthew Hartwig
 - Pablo Sanchez
 - Soma Jyothula
 - Stephen Huddleston
 - Thomas Kaleekal
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Carlos Martinez
 - Chelsea Weibel
 - Holly Sobczak
 - James Alcorn
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Taylor Livelli
 - Sara Rose Wells
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Samantha Weiss
- **Other Attendees**
 - Samantha Taylor