

To: Liver transplant program directors
Liver transplant program administrators
OPO executive directors

From: Julie Heimbach, M.D.
Chair, OPTN/UNOS Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

Subject: Liver Committee update, November 2018

We want to continue to update you on the status of major projects involving the OPTN/UNOS Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee.

Liver distribution policy proposal

Thank you to everyone who provided public comment input on an updated liver and intestinal organ distribution policy. Our committee met Friday, Nov. 2. We considered views and recommendations from more than 1,200 individual comments received (which, by the way, represented the second highest public comment total on any OPTN policy proposal).

A variety of preferences and comments were expressed, and we carefully weighed all the alternatives. Eventually, our committee decided to advance to the Board of Directors a broader two-circle format (described in the public comment document and modeling as B2C), with a MELD/PELD sharing threshold of 29 for the broader (250 nautical mile) circle before sharing out to 150 miles for MELD/PELD candidates between 15 and 28.

Also as part of the proposal, the committee voted to cap standard MELD/PELD exceptions at 28. We are further recommending that the liver distribution policy take effect no earlier than three months after National Liver Review Board (NLRB) implementation, to allow all exception candidates at least one extension before the new policy, and the new cap, would apply. The OPTN/UNOS Board meets December 3-4 and will consider the committee's recommendations for final action.

While committees always review policy outcomes and consider changes to address unintended consequences after implementation, be assured that we will closely scrutinize the effects of liver distribution policy as implemented. The combination of NLRB and liver distribution policy will affect the liver transplant system in many ways, and we must be attuned to its performance to make needed improvements.

NRLB education and training

While there is not yet a formal implementation date for NLRB, we anticipate it will be early in 2019. Three educational opportunities are planned and will be posted on UNOS Connect.

Registration for the December 13 live webinar will open November 6. To register, visit [UNOS Connect](#). You can access it through the Home page, or click into the Live Webinar Course Catalog Category.

Pending the decisions regarding liver distribution, education on that policy will likely follow very soon. We will keep you posted as soon as updated information is available.

For questions or further information

If you'd like to know more about existing policies or public comment items, please visit our committee's [page](#) on the OPTN website and/or contact your Regional Administrator. If you'd like to know more about projects or proposals our committee continues to discuss, contact your regional representative to the committee or send an e-mail to liver@unos.org.