



September 6, 2002

Policy Transmittal 02-01  
RE: Liver Transplants**RECEIVED**

MAR 11 2003

MANAGED CARE

Dear Medicaid HMO Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification on the new standards developed by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) for prioritizing patients waiting for liver transplants. The new system, known as the Model for End Stage Liver Disease (MELD) and Pediatric End Stage Liver Disease Model (PELD), is based upon a numerical scale that was implemented to better discriminate between patients at risk of dying of liver disease due to disease severity in comparison to the previously established system. These changes apply to the levels previously known as 2A, 2B, and 3. The level one category (primary non-function of a transplanted liver and acute liver disease) remains unchanged. Additional information on the new scoring system is available at [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org).

UNOS has informed the Agency that a direct crosswalk does not exist between the old criteria and the new criteria because the standards are entirely different. However, we may link the two systems by the frequency of re-certification. For example, a MELD score of 25 is a high score and has a more frequent re-certification requirement. A patient with a MELD score of 25 would need a transplant more urgently than one with a score of 10.



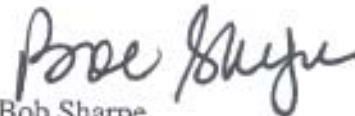
For purposes of the Medicaid managed care contractual requirements, the following scale may be used to determine eligibility for disenrollment:

MELD/PELD scores greater than or equal to 25 may be equated to the previous score of 2A.

MELD/PELD scores ranging from 11-24 may be equated to the previous score of 2B.

This and other Medicaid managed care policy transmittals may be found at [www.fdhc.state.fl.us](http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us). If you have questions or require additional information, please contact David Rogers at (850) 487-2355.

Sincerely,



Bob Sharpe  
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

Cc: Mary Pat Moore  
Thomas Warring

BS/rj