

April 15, 2019

Dear Ms. Stocks,

Thank you for your interest in the Methodist/ University of Tennessee Transplant Institute. I am writing in response to the letter dated February 27, 2019 from the MPSC regarding liver transplant outcomes from July 2015 to December 2017. As per our previous response, we are aware of our outcome data, and are working diligently to improve these outcomes. Based on our calculations, we will have lower than expected outcomes for two more cohorts until the year 2016 rolls off. Based on our more recent outcomes, and the process improvements that have been implemented and will be implemented, we expect to have “as expected” outcomes beginning with the 2.5 year cohort from January 2017 to June 2019. Our more recent outcomes since our last submission include 35 primary liver transplants. We have had three graft failures, one from the first half of 2018, one from the second half of 2018, and one from the first half of 2019, all of whom were successfully re-transplanted. We had one death of a patient from the second half of 2018 who died at seven months post-transplant of unknown causes at home.

We have addressed the specific requests from PAIS below:

- An updated plan for quality improvement based on the external review.
- Specific updates to the staff recruitment. Include the positions that are posted, positions filled, and onboarding updates.
- Revised protocols since October 2018:
Pre-transplant recipient selection and evaluation; Donor organ selection and acceptance; Peri-transplant management including surgical procedures and protocols; Post-transplant management protocols; and Hospital specific staffing and quality control.
- Periodic activity reports and transplant logs: An activity report form and a transplant log reflecting current UNetSM data are enclosed.

Please validate the information on this report, complete any fields that are blank, and return it to UNOS. If any element of the pre-printed data is incorrect, please make the appropriate changes in UNetSM by April 16, 2019, as well as record them on this form.

- Include a synopsis for any graft loss or death that occurred within one year of transplant since your last submission of synopses.

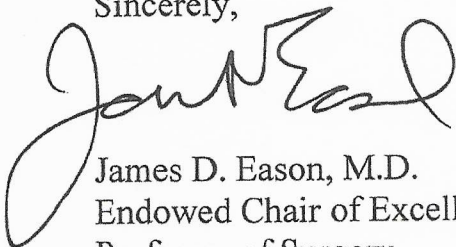
The specifics to each of these requests are in attachments as outlined in the cover sheet to our submission. There is a new structure to our Quality Improvement process with greater reporting to, and input from the hospital and healthcare system, as well as recruitment of new staff. We have made numerous protocol changes and implemented new patient care protocols that serve as guidance for our nurses and house staff as well as training modules for onboarding new personnel. We have hired numerous new staff at all levels in the Transplant Institute and are aggressively recruiting new hires for unfilled positions.

Our move into our new facility is imminent and should be completed by early May. This facility will have state of the art ICU and acute care areas with greater visibility of our patients to staff.

We believe our team has made tremendous progress in improving the outcomes of our Liver Transplant Program, while at the same time, offering liver transplantation as life-saving therapy to the patient population that we serve.

Once again, thank you for your interest in and attention to our Transplant Institute.

Sincerely,



James D. Eason, M.D.
Endowed Chair of Excellence in Transplant Surgery
Professor of Surgery
Chief of Transplantation
James D. Eason Transplant Institute
Methodist/ University of Tennessee Hospital