

Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid
Mr. L. Colenbie
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Leiden, March 24, 2020

Reference: 20107ETI20/sI

Subject: MELD and LAS updates for non-hospitalized patients

Dear Mr. Colenbie, dear Luc,

In the process of controlling the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, many organ transplant centers will have COVID-19 positive patients admitted. This imposes a risk for other patients, and logistical difficulties for out-patient clinics.

Lung and liver patients need to have regular updates for LAS scores or MELD score (labMELD and exceptional MELD) and are needed to keep their position on the waiting and match list. In order to determine these scores it is necessary that patients are seen by their treating physician in a hospital. Under the current circumstances with the difficulties imposed by COVID-19, this is not always possible or feasible.

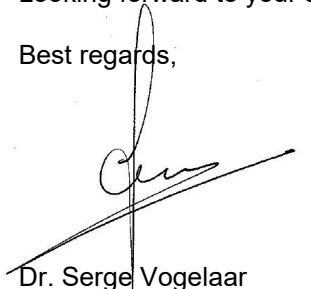
Under these exceptional circumstances, we would like to ask your approval to refrain from LAS and MELD updates for all non-hospitalized patients, as long as the restrictions caused by COVID-19 are valid. With this approval, all patients as mentioned above will maintain their score, based on the last data entry in our system. In case of a deterioration of the clinical situation of the patient, new data can still be used for a new score.

The above-mentioned measurements would apply for all patients not admitted to the hospital, for reconfirmation of regular LAS scores, labMELD and exceptional MELD.

Would you be so kind to send us a reaction latest Friday March 27, so we can inform all transplant programs on Monday.

Looking forward to your swift response.

Best regards,



Dr. Serge Vogelaar

Medical Director