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Characteristics of Lung Allocation Score Exception Requests Submitted to the National Lung Review Board

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The lung allocation score (LAS) was implemented by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) in 2005 as the primary method for allocating deceased donor lungs for transplantation in persons >12 years of age in the United States¹. Its aim was to provide a more objective basis for lung allocation based on net transplant benefit. Implementing the LAS was also partly driven by directives from the Department of Health and Human Services calling for allocation systems that direct organs to those in most need, while minimizing the effects of geography^{2,3}.

Recognizing that the LAS may not reflect the clinical condition for all transplant candidates, the OPTN/UNOS Thoracic Organ Transplantation Committee established the Lung Review Board (LRB). The LRB is a national group of transplant physicians who review exception requests from transplant

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