

MELD and PELD Scores

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These scores tell us how sick you are. The MELD (Model of End Stage Liver Disease) score is used for those who are 12 years of age or older. Scores range from 6-40. The higher the number, the more severe your disease. Death is also more likely without a transplant. Lab values (total bilirubin, creatinine, INR, sodium, and albumin) are used to calculate the MELD score.

The PELD (Pediatric End-stage Liver Disease) score is similar. It is used for those younger than 12 years old. Lab values (bilirubin, INR, albumin), height, and weight are used to calculate the score.

How MELD/PELD Scores Are Used

When a liver becomes available from a deceased donor, MELD/PELD scores are used to decide who that liver goes to. In general, livers go to the patient with the highest MELD/PELD score that is the same blood type as the donor.

Calculating Your MELD/PELD Score

There are websites that have MELD/PELD calculators. One is: <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>. Click on MELD and PELD under the Resources tab.

How Your Score Is Updated

You will receive a phone call or MyChart message letting you know that your MELD/PELD score is due to be updated. We will fax an order to your lab. After your lab faxes us the results, we enter your lab scores into the UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing) computer system.

We cannot update your score in UNOS unless we have ALL FIVE of these results. Also, if you have a MELD/PELD exception for something like cancer, more labs and testing are needed. Your transplant coordinator will tell you what is needed to update your score.

Updating Your MELD/PELD Scores

UNOS has rules for how often MELD/PELD scores must be updated. This depends on how high your score is. The higher the score, the more often we have to update it.

MELD SCORE	Update DUE	LAB VALUES MUST BE:
25 or greater	Every 7 days	48 hours old or less
24-19	Every 30 days	7 days old or less
18-11	Every 90 days	14 days old or less
< or = 10	Every year	30 days old or less

We can update your score as often as needed. Anytime you become sicker, if your score is higher, we can update it as long as we receive the lab tests needed to do so.

If we do not update your score by the time frame outlined, your MELD score will drop to 6 in UNOS. With a score of 6, **you would not be eligible for a liver should an organ become available.** Therefore, it is extremely important that we update your score when it is due.

What You Can Do to Keep Your Score Updated

1. Know when your MELD score needs to be updated.
2. Check your MyChart and voicemail often to ensure you receive the MELD update request.
3. Make plans to go to the lab to have the tests drawn in a timely fashion.
4. Be sure the lab draws ALL FIVE tests needed to update the score.
5. Be sure the lab faxes the results of the test to the transplant program in a timely manner
6. Call or MyChart your transplant coordinator with the date of your lab draw.
7. Have your MELD labs drawn anytime you feel sicker. This includes anytime you go into the ER or hospital.
8. Carry the provided laminated card in your wallet and show it to the doctors at the ER or hospital.
9. Call your transplant coordinator anytime you have questions about your MELD score or what is needed.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright ©11/2019. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7748.