

On September 12, 2017, new HLA equivalency tables will be active in UNetSM. These updates are designed to add a significant number of alleles to the tables used for determining both the O-A, B, DR mismatch category and the listing of unacceptable antigens. The primary goal for these updates was to provide a better opportunity for centers to list allele-specific antibodies as unacceptable with the overall goal of improving access and allocation to highly sensitized candidates.

In developing and validating these updates, we identified two limitations that may impact data entry and allocation. These limitations are being addressed and will be corrected as soon as possible.

1. The first limitation centers on O-A, B, DR mismatch allocation and DR mismatch allocation points. With the release of this update, if a candidate has an allele entered as one of their HLA antigens, he/she will only be considered “matched” when either the exact allele or the parent antigen is listed as a donor HLA type. For example:

| Candidate | Donor | O-MM |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------|
| A202 | A2 | YES |
| A202 | A202 | YES |
| A202 | A201 or A2XX (where XX ≠202) | NO |

We anticipate that this will be a low frequency occurrence. As such, we are recommending that centers not enter allele-level HLA typing data for their candidate unless it is necessary based on the antibody profile of the candidate: eg; candidate HLA; A202, candidate’s unacceptable antibody; A201.

2. The second limitation identified centers around entry of DRB3, 4, and 5 alleles into DonorNetSM (collected in UNetSM as DR52, DR53 and DR51, respectively). Due to patient safety related concerns brought forward by the community during beta testing, we will NOT be going forward with allele-level data entry for DRB3, 4, or 5 with this update. Data entry for DRB3, 4, and 5 will remain as it currently is with the reporting of Positive/Negative for the appropriate locus, except that the “Positive” option will be replaced with the locus (DR51, DR52, DR53). The allele-level selections for DRB 3, 4, and 5 will be released at a later date to be determined.

Additional comment:

Note: Attaching the raw data for deceased donor HLA typing in UNet helps laboratory personnel interpret HLA findings. Attaching only a copy of the final HLA typing results provides no additional information.