

## **OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**September 20, 2023**

### **Conference Call**

**Emily Perito, MD, Chair**

**Rachel Engen, MD, Vice Chair**

#### **Introduction**

The OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference, on 09/20/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Update and Discussion: OPTN Taskforce on Efficiency
3. Presentation and Discussion: Organ Offer Filters

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

#### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

The Chair welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

#### **2. Update and Discussion: OPTN Taskforce on Efficiency**

OPTN contractor staff provided additional details about the OPTN Taskforce on Efficiency and presented on attaining efficiency in allocation.

##### Presentation summary:

- There is a lack of efficiency in allocation which is leading to an unacceptable level of organ non-use, and the problem is getting worse
- Current trends show that even though the rate of kidneys has risen, the organ non-use rate also continues to increase
- Taskforce key responsibilities:
  - Evaluate existing data and recommendation regarding system challenges and improvements
  - Engage directly and frequently with the community to obtain data, feedback, and suggestions
  - Prioritize which issues to address, and recommend both short-term improvements and long-term strategies to address larger challenges
  - Frequently update the Executive Committee and Board of Directors
- Taskforce intends to create a roster of approximately 30 appointees inclusive of pediatric representation
- Kidney and Pancreas continuous distribution will proceed on a slower timeline to provide the time needed to further develop and incorporate the efficiency considerations of the taskforce
- The goal is for the committees to work within its scope and support the taskforce through review of relevant policy and data collection projects and providing input as needed

Summary of discussion:

**There were no decisions made for this agenda item. The group discussed suggestions and ideas for the taskforce on efficiency.**

OPTN contractor staff addressed several key points raised by committee members. In response to a member's question, staff clarified that the taskforce is actively working on defining the concept of "efficiency" within the context of their focus. At present, their primary areas of concern involve organ non-use and allocation occurring out of sequence. While specifics are still under development, they are expected to provide a more detailed plan to address relevant issues.

In a subsequent inquiry from a committee member, concerns were raised about whether the taskforce's efforts were primarily centered around kidney-related matters. OPTN contractor staff responded and said that while the taskforce may have originated due to inefficiencies primarily observed with kidneys, the broader focus and proposed solutions will look to address inefficiencies across all organs. The emphasis is on exploring efficiency challenges that may exist across the board.

During the discussion, a member shared some of the inefficiencies they encounter in organ allocation, including concerns about donor operating room (OR) time. Hospitals may attempt to schedule transplants during the middle of the night, leading to programs backing out due to the inconvenience. When this happens, the match run will most likely need to be re-done.

To tackle some of these challenges, the Chair suggested a focus on personalized offer filters. This tool, if implemented effectively, has the potential to reduce the number of offers that go unaccepted, thus optimizing the organ allocation process.

Next steps:

The Committee will evaluate their current projects and ideas to understand how they align with efficiency and taskforce efforts. In addition, the group will brainstorm ideas for committee or taskforce work regarding efficiency in organ allocation and utilization.

**3. Presentation and Discussion: Organ Offer Filters**

An OPTN contractor staff member presented to the group regarding organ offer filters. The Committee considered and discussed whether the current system functionalities were appropriate in the context of pediatric transplantation.

Presentation summary:

- Offer filters are a tool that allows transplant programs to apply program-specific, multi-factorial filters to avoid donor offers that they do not want to receive
- Multifactorial offer filters allow individuals to combine different criteria together
- For offer filters, donor acceptance criteria are applied at the time of match, indicating that the filters are applied using the most up to date information
- The Board recently approved default filters which include model-identified filters that will be automatically enabled by default; pediatric-alone programs will not have offer filters automatically enabled but may manually apply model identified filters

Summary of discussion:

**There were no decisions made for this agenda item. The group discussed the use of offer filters for pediatric candidates.**

A member raised a question about the factors contributing to the low pediatric utilization of offer filters. The OPTN contractor staff responded by explaining that the current system allows users to create filters that exclude pediatric candidates. Therefore, they are actively planning changes to introduce additional filters specifically designed for pediatric candidates.

In response to another member's inquiry, the presenter mentioned that when the implementation of default filters occurs, there will be communication and training materials released to guide users through the process. Furthermore, a month prior to the introduction of the new filters, they will most likely be made available in the data portal so that everyone can preview upcoming changes.

During the discussion, a member expressed concern from a patient and caregiver perspective, wondering if the use of filters might impact the wait times for patients at transplant centers that are unable to assume the risk associated with accepting higher-risk organs. The OPTN contractor indicated their willingness to consider this concern and explore its integration into the analysis. This could involve examining the wait times of programs that use filters more frequently than others.

Additionally, a member noted that they often use offers for their pediatric patients to assess and filter out offers that they would never consider accepting in the first place, emphasizing the practical utility of offer filters for their decision-making processes.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- October 18, 2023

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Emily Perito
  - Rachel Engen
  - Dan Carratturo
  - Katrina Fields
  - Ryan Fischer
  - Namrata Jain
  - JoAnn Morey
  - Caitlin Peterson
  - Daniel Ranch
  - Aaron Wightman
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Simon Horslen
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Kieran McMahon
  - Betsy Gans
  - Dzhuliyana Handarova
  - Rob McTier
  - Jenna Reformina
  - Susan Tlusty