

**OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee  
Meeting Summary  
September 6, 2023  
Conference Call  
Marie Budev, DO, Chair  
Matthew Hartwig, MD, Vice Chair**

## Introduction

The Lung Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Webex teleconference on 9/6/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and agenda
2. Blood type proposal next steps
3. Allocation efficiency update
4. Next steps and closing comments

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

### 1. Welcome and agenda

The Chair welcomed Committee members.

#### Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion by the Committee.

### 2. Blood type proposal next steps

Staff reiterated the timeline for implementation of [Modify Lung Allocation by Blood Type](#):

- September 7<sup>th</sup>: Public comment closes at 11:59 pm ET
- September 11<sup>th</sup>: Public comment analysis sent to Committee
- September 14<sup>th</sup> : Lung Committee meets to:
  - Review public comment feedback
  - Consider any post-public comment changes
  - Vote to send proposal forward to the OPTN Board of Directors (BOD) for approval
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>: OPTN BOD votes on implementing proposal
- September 27<sup>th</sup>: IT implementation of blood type point changes (if BOD approves)

Staff also highlighted the current transition plan at the time of implementation as:

- For resolved exceptions to the biological disadvantages score:
  - Approved exceptions will remain in place and may be withdrawn by the transplant program if no longer needed
  - No change to previously denied exception requests
  - Programs can review the Lung Composite Allocation Score (CAS): Points Report in OPTN Waiting List to assess candidate points
- For pending exceptions to the biological disadvantages score:
  - Withdrawn by the system so that the Lung Review Board is not processing them with outdated information

- OPTN to conduct outreach to impacted transplant programs ahead of implementation (September 22nd – 27th)

On 8/31/23, the Committee asked to review data to determine if additional action is needed before implementation of [Modify Lung Allocation by Blood Type](#) after members expressed concern about access to transplant for blood type O candidates.

Data Summary:

The number of candidates on the OPTN Waiting List at the end of each month by blood type has increased for blood type O since implementation of [Establish Continuous Distribution of Lungs](#). Since implementation, the number of candidates removed from the OPTN Waiting List due to death or too sick has decreased for all blood types. Since implementation, median waiting has increased for blood type O and decreased for all other blood types. Medically urgent candidates regardless of blood type are expected to have a high enough CAS to provide sufficient access to transplant under continuous distribution of lungs.

Summary of Discussion:

Decision #1: The Committee agreed the current implementation plan is the best path forward.

The Chair recommended that the Committee follow the current implementation plan since the data shows blood type O candidates still have a high CAS if they have a high medical urgency score and need a transplant before implementation. A member commented diagnosis group and disease dictates priority by blood type, and he is specifically concerned for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) patients. A member asked about medical urgency scores for blood type O candidates removed from the OPTN Waiting List due to death or too sick. These members recommended closely monitoring medical urgency scores under continuous distribution but agreed the data shows that additional action specific to blood type is not needed at this time. A member commented it is reassuring to see the number of OPTN Waiting List removals due to death or too sick did not increase even though the number of blood type O candidates on the OPTN Waiting List increased by about 50.

### **3. Allocation efficiency update**

The Committee received an update on the OPTN Task Force on Efficiency and offer filters for lung transplant programs. The initial release of lung offer filters is expected to include:

- Offer Filters Model – identifies potentially effective filters for each transplant program based on that transplant program’s acceptance patterns
- Offer Filters Explorer – allows transplant programs to assess the impact of potential filters and view reports of donors and candidates being filtered
- Offer Filter Manager – manage the filters to be applied in allocation
  - Manages filters that the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System uses
  - Updates to the lung match to apply the filters

The plan is to release this first phase of lung offer filters by January 2024.

Summary of discussion:

Decision #2: The Committee supports offer filters for lung, but recommended expediting the timeline if possible.

The Chair commented cold ischemia time will not be helpful, but a maximum age filter will be. A member asked for filters for calculated panel reactive antibody (cPRA). Staff responded this could be implemented as exclusion criteria, for example, candidates with very high CPRA could be excluded from a transplant program's offer filters. Members requested an expedited implementation.

**4. Next steps and closing comments**

The Chair thanked members and presenters for joining the meeting.

Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion by the Committee.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- September 14, 2023, teleconference, 5:00 pm ET

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Marie Budev
  - Erika Lease
  - Brian Armstrong
  - Brian Keller
  - Ed Cantu
  - Jackie Russe
  - Katja Fort Rhoden
  - Matthew Hartwig
  - Pablo Sanchez
  - Soma Jyothula
  - Sid Kapnadak
  - Thomas Kaleekal
  - Tina Melicoff
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - David Schladt
  - Nicholas Wood
  - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Amy Putnam
  - Carlos Martinez
  - Darby Harris
  - Heather Carlson-Jacquez
  - James Alcorn
  - Joel Newman
  - Taylor Livelli
  - Sara Rose Wells
  - Susan Tlusty
  - Samantha Weiss
  - Rachel Hippchen
  - Rae Shean
  - Rob McTier