

**OPTN Operations and Safety Committee
Mandatory Usage of Offer Filters Workgroup
Meeting Summary
September 26, 2022
Teleconference**

Kim Koontz, MPH, CTBS, Chair

Introduction

The Optimizing Usage of Offer Filters Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference, on 09/26/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Voluntary Kidney Offer Filters Usage Update
2. Public Comment Preview
3. Closing Remarks

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

1. Voluntary Kidney Offer Filters Usage Update

Research staff presented the update on voluntary offer filters to the Workgroup. They also conducted data analysis on whether offer filters reduce match duration and how much of an impact filters have on individual matches.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked whether the acceptance ratio published by the SRTR included filtered donors. The presenter clarified that those acceptance rate numbers do not count bypassed offers; the filters apply a bypass, therefore it will not show up as a rejected offer on the centers' organ acceptance rate. The member wondered if some programs might not be aware of that. The Chair concurred, as, at regional meetings, the consensus was that most people are not aware that offer filters can potentially help a center with their organ acceptance rate. A member asked whether more kidneys were being accepted as a result of the offer filters. Staff replied that they did not have that data available at this time and will investigate whether conclusions can be drawn. A member asked how many programs are not using offer filters, and whether there is a reason for that. Staff noted that they found that the majority of programs do not make use of offer filters or any kind of screening program for matches. The Chair asked why there is an increase of an hour for match duration in the post-offer filters era, but according to further data, the findings state that for every 1% of offers bypassed, match duration has a 7.9-minute decrease. Staff replied that there are other factors that more significantly impact the duration of a match, such as KDPI or ABO. The impact these factors have increases total match duration, but independent of those factors, offer filters contribute to a decrease in match duration. One member brought up whether the time of cross-clamp to final acceptance of kidney should be used as a timeframe instead match duration. Another member wondered if a potential source of delay in match duration is getting biopsy results back, causing a slowdown in the process for those hard-to-place kidneys. A member asked if a measure of success of offer filters would be seeing a decrease in match duration for the harder to place kidneys.

Next steps:

Staff will be consider the questions of the Workgroup. Staff will also review the metrics that were suggested by the Workgroup when conducting further investigations on offer filter efficacy and match duration.

2. Public Comment Preview

Staff presented on public comment feedback to date, and what the sentiment has been on the questions posed within the concept paper for community feedback.

Summary of Discussion:

Staff presented the themes that have come up, and that sentiment thus far has been supportive of increased usage of offer filters. One general theme noted is that offer filters should be mandatory, but need a significant amount of education prior to implementation. Given all of the feedback from public comment, the Chair presented some potential solutions and next steps on moving forward with the project. The Chair asked if the Workgroup could consider a timeline for the project, and whether starting with offer filters as a default initially would allow programs the necessary time to get familiar with the filters before they become mandatory. The Chair spoke about the necessity for education on offer filters as a whole, to increase use of them across all organ centers. A member asked if screening services used by transplant programs have been approached for some input, as they might benefit from offer filters as well, and could be another opportunity for education. Another member replied that those screening services were engaged in the process through transplant programs; if the Workgroup directed education to the transplant programs, it would likely reach the screening services. The Chair encouraged the Workgroup to review the public comment feedback and come back with potential recommendations in moving the project forward.

3. Closing Remarks

The Chair hopes that next meeting there will be more to discuss concerning moving the project forward. Staff reminded the Workgroup that Public Comment is open until September 28th.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 24, 2022
- November 28, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Greg Abrahamian
 - Jill Campbell
 - Caroline Jadlowiec
 - Katherine Audette
 - Melissa Walker
 - Laura O'Melia
 - Reginald Groh
 - Samantha Endicott
 - Sanjeev Akkina
 - Stacy Sexton
 - Valerie Chipman
 - Kimberly Koontz
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Betsy Gans
 - Carlos Martinez
 - Isaac Hager
 - Joann White
 - Kerrie Mastne
 - Melissa Lane
 - Rae Shean
 - Sally Aungier
 - Sharon Shepherd