

OPTN/UNOS Policy Notice

Clarification to Apply Kidney Minimum Acceptance Criteria to Highly Sensitized Candidates

Sponsoring Committee:	OPTN/UNOS Kidney Transplantation Committee
Policy/Bylaws Affected:	Policy 5.1.A Kidney Minimum Acceptance Criteria
Public Comment:	N/A
Effective Date:	September 1, 2017

Problem Statement

The OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors approved changes to the kidney allocation system on June 24, 2013.¹ Subsequent review of these approved changes by UNOS staff highlighted the need for clarification regarding *Policy 5.1.A: Minimum Kidney Acceptance Criteria*. Current policy states that when transplant programs submit kidney minimum acceptance criteria to the OPTN Contractor it will not apply to zero antigen mismatch kidney offers, but neglects to include offers to highly sensitized candidates. It has long been the intent of the OPTN and the revised kidney allocation system, however, to maximize the possibility of offers for difficult to match candidates and otherwise vulnerable populations. This clarification will ensure that kidney minimum acceptance criteria will not apply to offers made to these candidates at the regional and national level, as they currently are with local offers.

Summary of Changes

These policy updates clarify that minimum acceptance criteria submitted by transplant programs will not be applied to 0-ABDR or highly-sensitized candidates.

What Members Need to Do

Kidney transplant programs should continue to report minimum kidney acceptance criteria for import deceased donor kidneys offered by the Organ Center. These criteria will not be applied to 0-ABDR or highly-sensitized candidates.

Affected Policy Language

New language is underlined (example) and language that is deleted is struck through (~~example~~).

5.1 Minimum Acceptance Criteria

Minimum acceptance criteria define which import deceased donor organs will be offered by the Organ Center to transplant hospitals from OPOs outside the receiving transplant hospital's Donation Service Area (DSA).

¹ OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors Meeting. *Executive Summary*. June 24-25, 2013, Richmond, Virginia. Accessed July 10, 2017. https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/1798/executivesummary_0613.pdf.

5.1.A Kidney Minimum Acceptance Criteria

Kidney transplant programs must report to the OPTN Contractor annually minimum kidney acceptance criteria. The kidney minimum acceptance criteria will not apply to imported zero antigen mismatched (0-ABDR) kidney offers or offers to highly sensitized candidates according to Policy 8.5.F. Highly Sensitized Candidates.

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