

Expedited Placement of Livers

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee

What problem will the proposal address?

- Current OPTN policies do not address expedited placement
- This absence creates:
 - Lack of transparency about how expedited placement currently works
 - No formal guidance for OPOs and transplant hospitals
 - Inconsistent practice and access to organs

Spring 2019 Public Comment

- Common concerns from previous public comment cycle:
 - “In the donor OR” was *too* late in the process
 - 20 minutes is not enough time to respond
- Changes to the proposal based on feedback:
 - Identify expedited placement candidates on the original liver match run intended to support OPO logistics/planning
 - Clarifies that expedited placements will use the **original match run** with additional screening applied (versus a new match run type)
 - Extends response time to **30 minutes**

What evidence indicates it is a problem?

MPSC Data:

- 523 liver transplants using expedited placement (2016-2018)
- 60% of those reviewed were associated with intra-operative turndowns
- 4 liver transplant programs received almost 50% of the expedited liver offers
- 70% of OPOs have at least one expedited placement reviewed by the MPSC each year (all organs)

AOPO study:

- 880 liver declines in the OR (2 year period)

What are the proposed solutions?

- Create a system for expediting liver offers
- Transplant hospitals must “opt-in” to receive expedited liver offers
- OPOs will have criteria to initiate expedited liver offers
- Transplant hospitals must respond within 30 minutes in order to be eligible to receive the liver

To “opt-in” transplant hospitals must:

- Agree to allow any procurement team to recover the liver, if necessary
- Enter the following criteria for **each type** of donor (DCD and/or DBD)
 - Minimum and maximum age
 - Maximum body mass index (BMI)
 - Maximum distance from the donor hospital to transplant hospital
 - Minimum and maximum height
 - Minimum and maximum weight
 - Percentage of macrosteatosis

OPOs can make expedited liver offers if *both* conditions are met:

1. The donor has entered the operating room, or in the case of a DCD donor, withdrawal of life sustaining medical support has been initiated, whichever occurs first
2. The primary transplant hospital notifies the host OPO or Organ Center that the primary potential transplant recipient will no longer accept the liver

Responding to expedited liver offers

- Transplant hospitals must respond with a provisional yes within 30 minutes to be eligible to receive the liver
- At the end of the 30 minute timeframe, the liver will be placed with the candidate with a provisional yes acceptance that appears highest on the match run

How will members implement this proposal?

Transplant Hospitals

- Must enter acceptance criteria on a candidate-by-candidate basis in order to receive expedited liver offers
- Develop processes that allow quick review of expedited liver offers within the 30 minute time limit

How will members implement this proposal?

OPOs

- Identify expedited placement candidates on the original liver match run
- Follow requirements for initiating expedited liver offers
- Submit required information before sending electronic offers
- Set the number of transplant hospitals to receive offers

How will the OPTN implement this proposal?

System programming changes include:

- New fields in Waitlist and DonorNet that allow transplant hospitals and OPOs to enter the required information
- New field on liver match run will show expedited liver candidates
- When expedited placement initiated, new screening will be applied to the original liver match run

How will the proposed change be evaluated?

- Assess impact of policy changes at 6 and 12 months
- Analyses beyond 12 months will be performed at the request of the Committee
- Find analysis plan on pages 10-11 of the proposal

Work Group Roster

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Expedited Placement of Livers

- Establishes a system, and policies, for expedited placement of livers
- Transplant hospitals must:
 - “Opt-in” at the candidate level to receive expedited liver offers
 - Respond to expedited liver offers within 30 minutes
- OPOs: Criteria before initiating expedited liver offers
- OPOs: Information required before sending offers