

**OPTN Operations & Safety Committee  
Mandatory Usage of Offer Filters Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
January 24, 2024  
Conference Call**

**Charles Strom, MD, Co-Chair  
Kimberly Koontz, MPH, Co-Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Mandatory Usage of Offer Filters Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoTo Meeting teleconference on 01/24/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project Overview and Goals
2. Discussion: Maximizing the Impact of Offer Filters

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

### **1. Project Overview and Goals**

The Workgroup was provided an overview of the Mandatory Usage of Offer Filters project, and its goals.

#### Summary of discussion:

The goal of the Mandatory Usage of Offer Filters project is to mandate the usage of offer filters based on identified criteria in policy. The Workgroup will initially address kidney offer filters and determine the necessary criteria. The Workgroup will review data and monitor the nationwide rollout of the voluntary Kidney Offer Filter project to identify gaps or needs.

### **2. Discussion: Maximizing the Impact of Offer Filters**

The nation-wide rollout of voluntary kidney offer filters will be implemented January 27, 2022. The Workgroup discussed how to ensure widespread usage of voluntary kidney offer filters.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Workgroup seeks to review transplant program usage of voluntary kidney offer filters before mandating usage.

A member stated that transplant programs who contract outside organizations to manage organ offers may be more opposed to mandating organ offer filters. A Co-Chair stated that the value of mandatory offer filters for transplant programs who use contracting organizations is that it will lead to the betterment of the whole system.

Another member stated that an additional value of utilizing organ offer filters may be the potential cost savings for transplant programs. A member stated that transplant programs may also benefit by using offer filters, as it would allow the opportunity for organ offers to go to transplant programs that are more likely to accept the offer in a more efficient and timely manner, and reduce cold time.

A Co-Chair suggested that one approach to mandating offer filters could be an automatic application of offer filters for organ offers the transplant program has never accepted. The Co-Chair explained that, based on data, if a transplant program has not accepted a certain type of offer within a determined

timeframe, the transplant program will be alerted that an offer filter will automatically be applied. The Co-Chair added that a pathway may be developed in conjunction to allow transplant programs to submit justification for not applying specific filters.

Another member stated that it would be difficult for a program to demonstrate a change in behavior in order to remove or alter a mandatory offer filter. The member explained that due to the offer filter, the transplant program would not be receiving those specific offers so they would be unable to demonstrate a change in behavior.

A member stated that there should be a requirement for transplant programs in order to make organ offer and acceptance practices more efficient and streamlined. The member stated the ability to adjust individual candidate filters would also be beneficial to transplant programs.

Another member expressed interest in reviewing data that compares transplant programs who utilize offer filters to those who do not. A Co-Chair suggested that the transplant community should be able to review data on the impact of voluntary usage of kidney offer filters as a whole.

A member stated that the transplant program specific data on organ offers need to be viewed by the right individual in order to have an impact. The member explained if the data is sent to a staff member that does not take organ offers, or does not understand the organ offer and acceptance processes, then the data will not be impactful. Another member stated that sending the reports may lead to more uptake rather than requiring individuals to log into the system to view their reports. Another member added that additional transplant program staff, such as surgeons and physicians, should be allowed access to their transplant program's offer filter webpage. A member requested data on the percentage of transplant programs that have used the organ offer report tool.

Another member suggested that it may be helpful for transplant programs to be able to view where the organ was accepted geographically. The member explained that transplant programs may feel more comfortable utilizing offer filters knowing that they are not losing organs that their competing transplant programs are accepting.

A Co-Chair suggested that it may be beneficial to identify the transplant programs who are not utilizing offer filters and set up meetings to walk through the process and answer any questions. The Workgroup acknowledged it may be unreasonable to expect 100% of transplant programs to utilize offer filters because there are some transplant programs which do not have any recommended offer filters through modeling done on their past organ acceptance behaviors.

A member stated that having the ability to exclude specific candidates from specific offer filters will be beneficial for increasing utilization, especially for transplant programs that are more aggressive in their organ acceptance practices.

Another member requested feedback from the OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee on kidney offer filters and mandatory usage.

The Workgroup agreed that educating transplant programs on the benefit of utilizing offer filters should be the initial step rather than mandating usage of offer filters. The Workgroup agreed that the nationwide roll of voluntary kidney offer filters should be discussed during the upcoming OPTN regional meetings.

#### Next steps:

The Workgroup will continue to discuss organ offer filters and review data from the voluntary usage of kidney offer filters.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- February 28, 2022 (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
  - Amy Evenson
  - Charles Strom
  - Greg Abrahamian
  - Jill Campbell
  - Jim Kim
  - Kimberly Koontz
  - Laura O'Melisa
  - Melissa Walker
  - Reginald Gohh
  - Samantha Endicott
  - Stacey Sexton
  - Valerie Chipman
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Ben Wolford
  - Carlos Martinez
  - Joann White
  - Kerrie Masten
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Leah Slife
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Melissa Lane
  - Rob McTier
  - Robert Hunter
  - Sally Aungier
  - Sharon Shepherd
  - Susan Tlusty