

**OPTN Operations & Safety Committee
Match Run Rules Workgroup
Meeting Summary
July 21, 2022
Conference Call**

Jill Campell, BSN, RN, CPTC, Chair

Introduction

The Operations & Safety Committee Match Run Rules Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 07/21/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome
2. Review and Discussion of Tiered System Solution Assumptions (Tier III)
3. Review and Discussion of Time Limit Scenarios for Proposed Tiered Approach

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

1. Welcome

The new chair for the Workgroup was introduced, and new members to the Workgroup introduced themselves and their background.

2. Review and Discussion of Tiered System Solution Assumptions (Tier III)

The Workgroup reviewed the proposed tiered system as well as the policy requirements for programs in the Tier III category. This was presented by IT Staff.

Data summary:

Tier III Requirements:

- Transplant Programs must evaluate organ offers to see if the offer immediately meets any of their internal refusal reasons
- Program will be notified if they are close to receiving an offer – will then move to Tier II (following additional criteria/requirements once moved up on the match run to that tier)

Summary of discussion:

The Chair queried the Workgroup for what should happen to a program's remaining time once they had responded to a notification. A member suggested that this time should reset, as in some cases there may be new information updated in the match run.

A member inquired if there had been different frameworks proposed for different organs, noting that kidney allocation was often different than other organs' allocation. Staff replied that this had not been considered, but could be depending on the feedback garnered from public comment.

The member also asked if there was any safeguard to stop programs from automatically answering yes to Tier III alerts when busy, as this happens in current practice. The Chair responded that Tier III was designed to be easily performed, requiring programs to determine if the donor met any of their immediate refusal criteria.

Another member asked if the first candidate on a match run would receive a Tier III alert, or whether they would instantly receive a Tier I offer. Staff responded that this would be covered in a subsequent slide, but was an area in which they were looking for feedback.

It was suggested that harder to place organs should have a greater number of notifications sent out with each alert in comparison to easier to place organs. The member advocated for dynamic limits based off of organ quality. When asked by a new member what the prior reasoning had been for limits to exist on offers, the Chair responded that the Workgroup had felt there were instances where Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) would send out too many notifications on some organs if there were no limits.

Staff also answered a question that programs at the top of the match run, in Tier I, would not receive a Tier III notification if they ruled out their initial candidate, but not all of their candidates. The Chair emphasized that this would need to be explained such that programs feel they still will have time to consider offers if they refuse for their initial candidate. In addition, the ability for programs to refuse for some candidates but still consider it for others should be facilitated.

A member noted that, if a program is using offer filters, review of Tier III alerts should be even easier. The Chair pointed out that offer filters are currently only for kidney, so the benefit of Tier III will be better seen in other organ groups.

Next steps:

Staff will consider the Workgroup's feedback and incorporate it into the concept paper.

3. Review and Discussion of Time Limit Scenarios for Proposed Tiered Approach

The Workgroup reviewed the implications of the time limits set from a policy and systems perspective.

Summary of discussion:

A member stated that there was no point in outlining a time limit if there was no punishment for exceeding the time limit. They advocated for the system automatically bypassing candidates who exceed their time limit. The Chair also considered that this would "de-personalize" bypassing programs who exceed, noting that some OPOs may grant programs extra time while trying to reach them, inadvertently delaying allocation. A member from an OPO agreed with this statement.

A member expressed concern that some programs may see an immediate refusal reason in the notification, and instead of refusing the offer, will wait for the time limit to exceed and have the system automatically bypass them. It was suggested that the usage of this code could be tracked within post-implementation monitoring to ensure programs are not doing that.

The Workgroup agreed that, if there will be limits on the offers sent, in order to ensure the system continues to progress through allocation, time limits must be abided to. The Workgroup also approved of the terminology "Tier III interested" as the positive response option.

Staff wondered if programs should be allowed to indicate they have completed Tier II requirements if, within the timeframe for Tier III, they complete both the ones for Tier III and Tier II. A member was not in favor of this, as it may overwhelm OPO coordinators if programs call and ask for more information to complete their evaluation of an offer after receiving only a Tier III alert. A second member also did not support this option, stating that if it did exist, they would like to ensure they will only receive recipient specific requests from programs interested in indicating Tier II interest.

Next steps:

Staff will consider this feedback and incorporate it into the concept paper.

Upcoming Meeting

- August 18, 2022
- September 15, 2022

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Jill Campbell
 - Doug Butler
 - Audrey Kleet
 - Catherine Kling
 - Kimberly Koontz
 - Sharyn Sawczak
 - John Stallbaum
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Raelene Skerda
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Isaac Hager
 - Melissa Lane
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Carlos Martinez
 - Kerrie Masten
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Joann White