

**OPTN Operations & Safety Committee
Mandatory Usage of Offer Filters Workgroup
Meeting Summary
November 15, 2021
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 11/15/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project Overview and Goals
2. Monitoring Plan for Kidney Voluntary Offer Filters
3. 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. Monitoring Plan for Kidney Voluntary Offer Filters

The Workgroup reviewed the monitoring plan for the usage of kidney voluntary offer filters.

Summary of discussion:

Current metrics for the monitoring plan:

- Number and percent of offers that were bypassed
- Number and percent of donors that were bypassed
- Number of filters that were recommended
- Number of filters that were recommended AND turned on
- Number of custom filters turned on (i.e. filters that were not recommended)
- Number and percent of offers bypassed with recommended filters
- Number and percent of offers bypassed with custom filters
- Number of bypassed organs that had no acceptances at any centers
- Percent of Offers Actually Bypassed vs Percent of Offers Predicted to Bypass During Modeling
- Percent of filters with each component i.e. percent of filters with a distance component, percent of filters with a KDPI component, etc.
- Transplant volumes pre/post

- Percent change in transplant volume pre/post
- Average cold time pre/post
- Time from allocation initiation to acceptance pre/post

There were no comments or questions.

Next Steps:

The Workgroup will consider additional metrics that should be included in the monitoring plan.

3. Overview and Discussion: Kidney Offer Filters

The Workgroup began discussing mandatory offer filters. The Workgroup welcomed the OPTN President who shared his perspective on the history of this work and the potential future in maximizing offer filters.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked whether the Workgroup is going to determine an acceptable acceptance rate to hold transplant programs accountable, or will transplant programs determine that based on program level data. A Chair responded that that is a critical question the Workgroup will need to answer. The Chair added that it will also be necessary to determine who will be the entity holding transplant programs responsible. The OPTN President stated that due to the project being within an OPTN workgroup, it would be expected that an OPTN mechanism be utilized. The OPTN President added that leaving the burden on organ procurement organizations (OPOs) may be unwarranted.

A member stated that some transplant programs utilize vendors to filter organ offers. The member asked whether mandating usage of offer filters can be achieved without affecting these businesses. A Chair responded that transplant programs that utilize vendors should still be expected to have certain offer filters in place. The OPTN President stated that if offer filters are optimally utilized then a transplant program could experience cost savings by eliminating use of vendors and investing in other resources. Another member added that some vendors evaluate organ offers for multiple programs so the vendors are also overwhelmed with calls; utilizing organ offer filters may result in more efficiency for the vendors.

A Chair stated that utilizing offer filters results in the procurement teams receiving less calls, as well as the accepting transplant program receiving the organ sooner, resulting in less cold ischemic time of the organ.

The Workgroup agreed it will be important to make candidate specific filters. A member added that candidate specific filters will increase the efficiency of the system more than solely program specific filters.

A Chair asked how transplant programs would be best informed regarding the implementation of kidney voluntary offer filters. A member responded that webinars to show examples of how to correctly apply offer filters would be helpful. The OPTN President stated that the quality teams at transplant programs should be targeted. Another member suggested providing a presentation to members during OPTN regional meetings.

A member asked if the kidney voluntary organ offer filters will be able to be applied to test lists. Staff responded that the kidney voluntary offer filters will not be rolled out to test lists, but will look into expanding functionality.

Next steps:

The Workgroup will continue discussion on mandating offer filters for kidneys.

Upcoming Meeting

- December 13, 2021 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Amy Evenson
 - Caroline Jadlowiec
 - Charles Strom
 - Christopher Jones
 - Jim Kim
 - Laura O'Melia
 - Lisa Goucher
 - Marilee Clites
 - Reg Gohh
 - Samantha Endicott
 - Valeria Chipman
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alice Toll
 - Brittany Shean
 - Carlos Martinez
 - Darren Stewart
 - Kerrie Masten
 - Kristine Althaus
 - Leah Slife
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Melissa Lane
 - Rob McTier
 - Robert Hunter
 - Sally Aungier
 - Sharon Shepherd
- **Other Attendees**
 - Matt Cooper