

**OPTN Operations & Safety Committee  
Mandatory Usage of Offer Filters Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
December 13, 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 12/13/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project Overview and Goals
2. Review and Discussion: Current Donor Criteria
3. Offer Filters Communications Plan

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. Review and Discussion: Current Donor Criteria**

The Workgroup reviewed data related to current donor criteria.

#### Data summary:

This analysis reviewed data to better understand the impact if all kidney transplant programs were to turn on all their recommended filters. Recommended filters were applied to kidney offers between July 1, 2021 and December 2, 2021. This excluded offers that were bypassed. The recommended filters do not include any candidate exclusion criteria. There was a total of 560 recommended filters. Transplant programs were recommended 2.5 filters on average, and 27 transplant programs had no recommended filters.

On average, transplant programs would have filtered 49 percent of their donors. In total, 8 percent of accepted donors would have been filtered off from the transplant program that accepted the organ(s). On average, transplant programs would have filtered 52 percent of their offers.

Distance (38.93 percent of filters), donation service area (DSA) (31.96 percent of filters), and kidney donor profile index (KDPI) (31.25 percent of filters) were the top three filter criteria for all filters with an evidence threshold of greater than 20 donors filtered. Distance (46.67 percent of filters), clamp timing

(40 percent of filters), DSA (33.33 percent of filters), and KDPI (33.33 percent of filters), were the top filters with an evidence threshold of greater than 100 donors filtered.

Summary of discussion:

The Workgroup discussed how to have transplant programs voluntarily engage with utilizing offer filters. The Workgroup emphasized that messaging should focus on reducing the offers to those the transplant program will accept. A member explained that this reduction will help transplant programs focus on the offers that are of interest to the program. A member stated that candidate specific filters will be an important addition.

A Co-chair stated that the data regarding 8 percent of accepted donors that were filtered off from transplant programs may be concerning to some transplant programs. Details were requested about the distribution of the 8 percent stratified by OPO. It was noted that the recommended filters in this data review did not include candidate exclusion criteria. It was also noted that this data review's evidence threshold was 20 donors, and it may be possible that if an increased evidence threshold was used, such as 200 donors, that the effects seen may not be as strong. For the nationwide roll out of voluntary offer filters, kidney transplant programs will be able to monitor the potential impact of offer filters before turning them on.

A member asked if the data review included analyzing whether the offers were reviewed by transplant program staff or a contractor organization. Staff responded that this data review did not analyze who reviewed the organ offer. A Co-chair added that offer filters will also benefit contractors who review organ offers as it will allow them more time to review relevant organ offers for their contracted transplant program.

A Co-chair recommended that the data regarding percent of offers that would be filtered may be better viewed if it was broken into sections such as 25 percent, 50 percent, 75 percent, and 100 percent.

A member requested additional data on how the 8 percent average of accepted donors that were filtered off from transplant programs translates into number of transplants per program on average. Staff clarified that the 8 percent average data point is in regards to acceptance at a center, not transplants.

Another member asked whether there is modeling for analyzing the difference, in terms of expedited placement of kidneys, if every transplant program were to use the recommended filters. Staff responded that this was not modeled.

### **3. Offer Filters Communications Plan**

The Workgroup reviewed the communications plan for the nationwide roll out of voluntary kidney offer filters for transplant programs and OPOs.

Summary of discussion:

A Co-chair asked if there will be targeted communications to the quality teams in transplant programs. Staff responded that communication to transplant programs aims to emphasize that quality teams should be informed. A member added that it may be beneficial for the communication to directly tell transplant administrators to inform the quality directors of the roll out of offer filters. The member emphasized that the communications need to stress that this roll out is voluntary. The member suggested that testimonials from transplant program leaders who participated in the pilot program would be beneficial as well. Another member agreed and added that pediatric specific testimonials would also be beneficial.

A Co-chair asked if transplant programs will be able to receive specific information relative to their program activity that would help them navigate any concerns about using offer filters. Staff responded that transplant programs can use the Offer Explorer tool as well as their program specific reports to monitor the impact of the offer filters.

A member suggested that training webinars would be beneficial. Another member suggested informing the community via regional meetings.

Next steps:

The Workgroup will continue to review and discuss mandatory usage of offer filters.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- January 24, 2022 (teleconference)
- February 28, 2022 (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
  - Caroline Jadlowiec
  - Charles Strom
  - Christopher Jones
  - Deb Maurer
  - Jill Campbell
  - Jim Kim
  - Kimberly Koontz
  - Laura O'Melia
  - Melissa Walker
  - Reg Gohh
  - Samantha Endicott
  - Sanjeev Akkina
  - Stacy Sexton
  - Valeria Chipman
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Alice Toll
  - Carlos Martinez
  - Janis Rosenberg
  - Joann White
  - Kerrie Masten
  - Kristine Althaus
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Leah Slife
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Melissa Lane
  - Rob McTier
  - Robert Hunter
  - Sally Aungier
  - Sharon Shepherd
  - Tameka Bland