

## *Notice of OPTN Policy Change*

# Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limit

<b>Sponsoring Committee:</b>	<b>Organ Procurement Organization</b>
<b>Policy Affected:</b>	<b><i>5.6.C Organ Offer Acceptance Limit</i></b>
<b>Public Comment:</b>	<b>July 27, 2023 – September 19, 2023</b>
<b>Board Approved:</b>	<b>December 4, 2023</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>Pending implementation and notice to OPTN members</b>

### Purpose of Policy Change

The purpose of this proposal is to modify the existing policy that allows two simultaneous primary organ offer acceptances, changing it to allow only one primary organ offer acceptance. This proposed change will eliminate the scenario where allocation efficiency is diminished when a transplant program holds two primary organ offer acceptances from two different OPOs while the transplant program considers which organ to ultimately accept, if any.

### Proposal History

In 2018, the first organ offer acceptance limits were implemented to improve the efficiency of organ placement. The enacted policy limited the number of organ acceptances for one candidate at one time, which assisted in the reduction of late declines that caused forced reallocations. This policy forced transplant programs to only be able to accept two offers. The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee found that late declines were still occurring, which resulted in logistical issues for OPOs. The Committee decided to create a workgroup to continue to find ways to prevent late declines and forced organ reallocations. The Organ Offer Acceptance Limit Workgroup had representation from a variety of OPTN Committees. The Committee considered alternatives but ultimately decided to move forward with the proposal that would change the limit on primary organ offer acceptances from two to one. Public comment received a variety of feedback, including feedback from several OPTN committees, but overall received support for the proposal. The Committee reviewed feedback and decided to keep the policy as submitted for public comment when it was presented to the OPTN Board of Directors.

Data from each organ committee was analyzed, and it was determined that the most frequent concurrent acceptance events occurred with liver. The Organ Offer Acceptance Limit Workgroup considered exceptions for donation after cardiac death (DCD) donors as well as high-status and medically urgent candidates, but those exceptions were not chosen. There were 811 liver concurrent acceptance events over an 18-month period (March 15, 2021, and September 15, 2022), which means there were 1622 livers that needed to be allocated.<sup>1</sup> However, half of those could not be placed under the current policy until the transplant program made a final decision on one or both of the offers.

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<sup>1</sup> Katrina Gauntt and Cass McCharen, "Multiple Acceptance Data Request," OPTN, Descriptive Data Request for Organ Offer Acceptance Limits Workgroup, February 16, 2023.

## Summary of Changes

This proposal will reduce the number of primary organ offer acceptances allowed from two down to one for any one candidate per organ type. It is important to note that limiting the number of primary acceptances does not prevent transplant programs from receiving organ offers or affect their ability to decline and provisionally accept offers as necessary.

## Implementation

OPOs need to be aware of the policy changes and develop communication strategies to ensure transplant programs are aware when evaluating organ offers.

Transplant hospitals will need to be aware that in order to accept another organ offer, they will need to decline the current organ offer acceptance.

The OPTN Computer System will be updated to modify its logic to allow for only one acceptance per candidate for each organ type.

## Affected Policy Language

New language is underlined (example) and language that is deleted is struck through (~~example~~).

### 5.6.C Organ Offer Acceptance Limit

For any one candidate, the transplant hospital can only have one ~~two~~ organ offer acceptances for each organ type. The host OPO must immediately report transplant hospital organ offer acceptances to the OPTN.