

## **OPTN Operations and Safety Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**September 25, 2025**

**Conference Call**

**Kim Koontz, MPH, Chair**

**Steven Potter, MD, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Operations and Safety Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 09/25/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome
2. Public Comment Presentation: *Establish a Comprehensive Multi-Organ Allocation Policy 2025*
3. Monitoring Report (Update): Optimizing Usage of Offer Filters
4. Overview: Upcoming Committee Discussions
5. Open Forum

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

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed the members and reviewed the agenda.

#### **2. Public Comment Presentation: *Establish a Comprehensive Multi-Organ Allocation Policy 2025***

The Committee received a presentation on the public comment proposal *Establish a Comprehensive Multi-Organ Allocation Policy 2025*.

#### Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made. The Committee's feedback will be provided to the sponsoring committee.
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A member asked how much, if at all, the transplant centers will be able to see of this information at start of allocation or prior to offers going out to better understand why their potential transplant recipient (PTR) is not offered the organ. Members discussed that especially in the middle of the night, it is helpful for transplant programs to understand their PTRs' relative priority on the match. The presenter offered to take that recommendation back to the sponsoring committee for more discussion.

The Chair asked the presenter for their thoughts regarding whether policy should require HLA typing to be entered prior to generation of the multi-organ allocation plan. The Chair explained that if the plan is generated without HLA, the OPO would not be able to make offers off the kidney match but the OPO could start allocating on the heart, liver, and lung matches. However, the OPO would need to generate a new multi-organ allocation plan to make the appropriate offers on the kidney match. The Chair said ideally allocation would be run with the HLA entered but sometimes there are rush cases where the OPO might only be allocating kidneys but would have to wait until the HLA is entered.

#### Next steps:

The Committee's feedback will be summarized and posted on the corresponding public comment page on the OPTN website.

### **3. Monitoring Report (Update): Optimizing Usage of Offer Filters**

The Committee reviewed monitoring data from the first six months following implementation of *Optimizing Usage of Offer Filters*.

#### Presentation summary:

- Pre-policy cohort: May 17, 2024 – November 13, 2024
- Post-policy cohort: November 14, 2024 – May 13 2024
- Number of active filters for kidney transplant programs:
  - 866 total filters at the beginning of the pre-policy period
  - 997 total filters at the end of the post-policy period
  - Most filters are program-identified, meaning the transplant program set the parameters for the filters
- Number of kidney transplant programs with active filters:
  - 161 at the beginning of the pre-policy period to 190 at the end of the post-policy period
  - On the implementation date, many programs using their own filters has model-identified filters turned on which they subsequently turned off in favor of their own program-identified filters
- Donors filtered per program:
  - Increased from average of 22.3% pre-policy to 27.5% post-policy
  - If the 203 programs that had filtered offers in both eras, 156 (77%) filtered more donors in the post-eras and 47 programs (23%) filtered fewer donors
- Offer responses:
  - Offers may be accepted, declined, filtered by offer filters, bypassed due to allocation out of sequence (AOOS), or bypassed by other reasons
  - Offers filtered by offer filters increased from 17.6% in the pre-policy era to 26.8% in the post-policy era, and the proportion of offers declined decreased
- Cold ischemic time (CIT): Remained relatively stable between pre- and post-eras
- Time from first to last notification: Median time decreased from 1.57 hours in the pre-policy era to 1.17 hours in the post-policy era
- Transplant volume change:
  - More kidney transplants were performed in the post-policy era
  - Most kidney transplant programs stayed within 20% of their transplant volume between the pre- and post-eras
  - This metric was included primarily to check for any significant variation in transplant volumes following implementation

#### Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made.
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A member asked whether offer filters interact with or affect the data reviewed by the Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee in their presentation. Contractor staff noted that the median appearance data reflected registrations of candidates who appeared on the match prior to offer filters

being applied so offer filters may reduce the number of PTRs receiving offers via the multi-organ allocation plans.

Next steps:

The Committee will review the slides from the presentation and follow up with any questions.

**4. Overview: Upcoming Committee Discussions**

The Committee reviewed agenda items for upcoming committee meetings.

Presentation summary:

- Deceased Donor Testing Requirements project
  - Pre-work: The Committee will be provided with a summary document including an outline of Workgroup recommendations, proposed policy and guidance language, and proposed data collection
  - This will be a voting item on the next meeting so quorum must be met
- New Project Ideas
  - Pre-work/action item: Think of 1-2 topics/project ideas that the Committee should consider
  - Examples could include further work on offer filters, defining late declines, or organ offer notification limits
- A full report for the 6-month monitoring of *Optimizing Usage of Offer Filters* will be provided at a future date

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made.
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There were no questions or comments.

**5. Open Forum**

There were no open forum requests for this meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- October 23, 2025 (Teleconference)
- November 13, 2025 (Teleconference)
- December 18, 2025 (Teleconference)

## **Attendance**

- **Committee Members**
  - Kim Koontz, Chair
  - Nicole Alfred-Toran
  - Anja DiCesaro
  - Kaitlyn Fitzgerald
  - Laura Huckestein
  - Sarah Koohmaraie
  - Anne Krueger
  - Annemarie Lucas
  - Megan Roberts
  - Norihisa Shigemura
  - Elizabeth Shipman
  - Jennifer Smith
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Carlos Martinez
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Joann White
- **Other attendees**
  - Lisa Stocks