

**OPTN Operations and Safety Committee
Mandatory Usage of Offer Filters Workgroup
Meeting Summary
March 28, 2022
Conference Call**

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Introduction

The Mandatory Offer Filters Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 03/28/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Highlights from OPO Committee Discussion
2. Offer Filters – Current Usage Update
3. Communication/Awareness

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

1. Highlights from OPO Committee Discussion

The Workgroup reviewed the discussion held by the OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee on 3/15. The OPO Committee considered ways to share information and communicate effectively about offer filters.

Data summary:

The Workgroup proposed the development of “OPO Reports” to assist in conversations. These would contain:

- Current usage of offer filters
- Potential impact if recommended filters are turned on

The OPO Committee recommended the following report fields be added:

- Provide data about transplant hospitals within 250 NM
- Provide specific recommended filters being used by hospitals in DSAs
- Provide information about discard rates
- Provide information about offers filtered off but transplanted at another program

Summary of discussion:

UNOS Research Staff noted that, in their conversation with the OPO Committee, there was some confusion surrounding how minimum acceptance criteria interacted with offer filters. They suggested that part of the educational offerings should be dedicated to clarifying the different screening tools available.

The Co-Chair inquired if OPOs are aware of the end goal for the offer filters project. Research Staff responded that they don’t think they know any end goal outside of reducing the overall number of offers. Staff also added that the end goal of the project, as well as the metrics used to measure success,

is a good question for the Workgroup to consider. When this did not prompt discussion, Staff suggested the current usage statistics could be shared

Next steps:

The Workgroup will continue to consider what information should be conveyed in an “OPO Report”.

2. Offer Filters – Current Usage Update

UNOS Research Staff presented on the current usage of optional offer filters.

Data summary:

Engagement:

- 168 programs have accessed Offer Filters Explorer
 - Of those 126 programs have been granted access to Offer Filters Manager
- Currently, 62 programs have at least 1 filter enabled
- Of all the programs with filters enabled, programs have chosen predominantly to use all custom filters
- Offer filters have bypassed a total of 590,608 total offers
 - This accounts for 34.8% of offers to programs with at least one offer filter enabled

Summary of discussion:

Staff posed the question what metrics should be considered when determining success of mandatory offer filters, and how should the Workgroup decide what constitutes a mandatory filter. The Co-Chair responded that, from an OPO perspective, an overall decrease in the time taken to get from the initial offer to an acceptance would constitute a success. They added that they could not speak to the transplant program perspective, and wondered if any members could speak to that.

A member considered that, from the transplant center perspective, two comments they had frequently heard were that 1) it was difficult to “play around” with the filters to determine what impact they would have prior to implementing them, and 2) programs were hesitant to enable filters because they worried it would be difficult to change acceptance practices once they were only viewing select, filtered, offers. Staff replied that the Offer Filters Explorer is intended to be the sandbox for determining the effect filters would have prior to actual usage. They went on to speculate that changing acceptance practices with filters enabled may be operational hesitancy rather than technical hesitancy, noting that it was easy to turn off filters. The member clarified that the hesitancy likely stems from a fear of “getting stuck in a certain practice” when a program is not seeing the offers being filtered. They suggested a way around this would be a report to periodically review the offers that have been screened.

The Co-Chair suggested that the Workgroup could consider working on a best practices document to disseminate information from programs that have successfully used offer filters and to reassure programs of their effectiveness. They also reaffirmed with the Workgroup that they felt working with the OPOs was the best path moving forward; the Workgroup agreed.

A member suggested that a way to incentivize it would be to highlight any increases in organ acceptance rate because of offer filters. Staff responded that it would be difficult to model an increase in acceptance rate just from the Offer Filters Explorer tool due to the multifaceted factors that go into organ acceptances. However, they are working on comparing programs that have filters turned on in comparison to programs that have none to demonstrate the increased efficiency of allocation for the first set of programs. The Co-Chair also added that increased efficiency due to a lower number of offers

would be appealing to transplant programs as they have frequently heard that programs feel they are receiving too many offers.

Next steps:

Research Staff will consider the feedback from the Workgroup.

3. Communication/Awareness

The Workgroup had an open discussion on best practices to motivate OPOs and transplant programs to use offer filters.

Summary of discussion:

The Co-Chair wondered what the best approaches for education on offer filters would be. A member endorsed having a webinar, but emphasized that programs are overall afraid of the offers that they will bypass without seeing. Furthermore, for smaller programs, the yield from offer filters is not as significant. A second member also supported having a webinar, and noted that one of the benefits of offer filters is the increased efficiency the more programs that are using them. They considered that, while programs may worry about the offers they will miss due to bypassing, they will receive more legitimate offers because of the increased allocation efficiency with offer filters.

The Co-Chair also posed the question how can programs efficiently get the information to the right person to make a decision on an organ. A number of members responded that it would be either the medical director, primary surgeon or physician, or a senior transplant administrator. It was suggested, then, that the webinar should target these positions. Another suggestion was to create an educational video that records the entire process of choosing and activating an offer filter. A third suggestion was to present at the Transplant Management Forum on using offer filters.

Research Staff inquired which group should sponsor the webinar, adding that it may get more support if it comes from the Workgroup as opposed to UNOS overall. PCR staff responded that both were available as an option, and the Co-Chair endorsed a webinar coming from the Workgroup or the Operations and Safety Committee as a whole.

Next steps:

UNOS IT Staff will deliver the presentation given to kidney transplant programs at the Workgroup's next meeting. The Workgroup will suggest to the Operations and Safety Committee that they sponsor a webinar on using offer filters. The Workgroup will also review the Offer Filters Explorer FAQ to determine if it needs to be updated.

Upcoming Meeting

- April 25, 2022

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Kimberly Koontz
 - Sanjeev Akkina
 - Katherine Audette
 - Valerie Chipman
 - Caroline Jadlowiec
 - Laura O'Meila
 - Stacy Sexton
 - Melissa Walker
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Raelene Skerda
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Sally Aungier
 - Isaac Hager
 - Robert Hunter
 - Rebecca Marino
 - Carlos Martinez
 - Kerrie Masten
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Rob McTier
 - Brittany Shean
 - Sharon Shepherd
 - Darren Stewart
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Joann White
 - Benjamin Wolford