

**OPTN Operations & Safety Committee
Meeting Summary
June 23, 2022
Conference Call**

**Chris Curran, CPTC, CTBS, CTOP, Chair
Alden Doyle, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair**

Introduction

The Operations & Safety Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 06/23/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Recognition of Outgoing and Incoming Members
2. Review and Discussion: Time Limit Scenarios for Proposed Tiered Approach
3. Updates/Reminders

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

1. Recognition of Outgoing and Incoming Members

Staff thanked the outgoing members for their service and welcomed incoming members. The Chair reflected on their term and encouraged the Committee to continue excelling. All members were reminded to complete their continuing education modules.

2. Review and Discussion: Time Limit Scenarios for Proposed Tiered Approach

The Committee reviewed a core concept on their project to update provisional yes.

Data summary:

Core concepts:

- 2 offers per Tier except in instances where there are multiple organs allocated off one match run (Kidney, Lung, etc)
- Time limit for Tiers 1 and 2 are 1 hour, with an additional 30 minutes granted when a program transitions from Tier 2 to 1

Summary of discussion:

The Vice-Chair wondered if there should be built in leniency for programs who receive two Tier 1 and two Tier 2 offers at the same time, as that program will be responsible for meeting all the Tier requirements for four candidates within two hours. A member agreed that there should be a provision to ensure this is not an undue burden for transplant centers; they suggested that the Tiers be flexible when offering to ensure there are multiple programs within each Tier. The Vice-Chair responded that this may require programs to then prepare more than four candidates if they occupy more than four positions at the start of a match run.

A member suggested that a potential area to facilitate evaluation for transplant programs is understanding how many programs are ahead of their specific candidate. They also added that they felt completing evaluations per the new policy requirements for two to three candidates felt "realistic". The

Vice-Chair suggested that Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) could have the flexibility to increase the number of offers as necessary, but must maintain at least two within each tier. The Chair replied that they felt this flexibility could be misused by some OPOs. They wondered if there was a way to ensure that medically complex organs and non-medically complex organs could be allocated equally efficiently using two different processes within the same system.

A member contributed that, from a heart match run perspective, the policy requirements within the time frame seemed acceptable.

The Chair reiterated a member's comment for emphasis that the Tiers should be variable by both organ type and organ quality. They suggested examining allocation trends amongst kidneys with different quality levels. This was supported by two members.

A member who worked at a rural center said that they felt the proposed time limit if they received two Tier 1 and 2 offers at the onset of a match could be tenuous. The Vice-Chair suggested that a program could carry over the remainder of their time if they moved between Tiers.

A second member suggested that, within the concept paper, the proposed Tiered structuring should be framed within scenarios. They felt this would generate more granular feedback.

The Vice-Chair wondered if programs should get either an additional 30 minutes when they moved from Tier 2 to 1 or their evaluation time from Tier 2 if that is greater than 30 minutes. A member agreed with this suggestion as long as the added time was not less than 30.

Next steps:

Staff will incorporate the Committee's suggestions into the concept paper.

3. Updates/Reminders

Staff reminded the Committee of public comment dates and regional meeting dates.

Next steps:

Staff will distribute education for the round table discussions at regional meetings on the offer filters concept paper.

Upcoming Meeting

- July 28, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Chris Curran
 - Alden Doyle
 - Katie Audette
 - Andrew Bonham
 - Kenneth Chavin
 - Jami Gleason
 - Steven Johnson
 - Audrey Kleet
 - Kimberly Koontz
 - Melinda Locklear
 - Renee Morgan
 - Joann Oxman
 - Rich Rothweiler
 - Susan Stockemer
 - Charles Strom
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Arjun Naik
 - Raelene Skerda
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Betsy Gans
 - Isaac Hager
 - Kerrie Masten
 - Rob McTier
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Joann White