OPTN Operations & Safety Committee
Match Run Rules Workgroup
Meeting Summary
June 22, 2022
Conference Call

Alden Doyle, MD, MPH, Chair

Introduction

The Operations & Safety Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 06/22/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Recognition of Outgoing Members
2. Review and Discussion: System Concepts within Proposed Tiered Framework; Time Limit Scenarios for Proposed Tiered Approach
3. Closing Remarks

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

1. Recognition of Outgoing Members

The Vice-Chair thanked all outgoing members for their work on the Committee.

2. Review and Discussion: System Concepts within Proposed Tiered Framework; Time Limit Scenarios for Proposed Tiered Framework

IT Staff presented on the current design philosophy for the implementation of a tiered framework within the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System and requested feedback on specific aspects.

Data summary:

System Concepts within Proposed Tiered Framework

Notifications – Two Types

- Offers (Candidate specific, Tier 1 and Tier 2)
- Alerts (Program specific, Tier 3)
    - Alert notifications are designed to make a program aware that they can anticipate receiving an organ offer notification for a candidate

Staff stated there were plans to include a dashboard of offered and/or accepted organs to provide increased transparency across matches, as well as plans to increase the specificity of multi-candidate refusals.

Time Limit Scenarios for Proposed Tiered Framework

This item was not presented.

Summary of discussion:

System Concepts within Proposed Tiered Framework

The Chair and Vice-Chair noted they were hesitant to limit the number of program-level alerts (Tier 3) as this may 'bog down' the pace of allocation. The Chair advocated for allowing organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to determine the number of tier 3 offers they can send.

A member and the Chair supported having the accepted organ transparency dashboard automatically update as organs were accepted off of match runs. The member suggested having "right kidney" and "left kidney" renamed to "kidney one" and "kidney two" to prevent programs from delaying updating the dashboard when they don't know which laterality was accepted.

An incoming member proposed having a tab system for organ coordinators to allow them to move between offers without returning to the landing page each time. Staff noted this was already being considered.

While reviewing the proposed appearance for the tiers within the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System, the chair emphasized they would like to easily be able to visually identify which candidate was in each tier. They would also like the system to automatically move candidates up their tiers as programs refuse organ offers above them. A member supported this approach as well, noting that there could be an "algorithm" that tries to fill a certain amount of Tier 1 and Tier 2 provisional acceptances. A second member expressed concern that this could overload coordinators receiving these phone calls for offers. The Chair responded that this was another area of current inconsistency and theorized that organ offers could be designated through the system without need for a phone call unless they are accepting. Staff also contributed that there were a number of potential tools that could be rolled out alongside this match run redesign to improve the notification system.

The Vice-Chair strongly supported the proposed updates to the multi-candidate refusals, but emphasized there needs to be flexibility in the logic to allow programs to convey exactly for which candidates they wanted to refuse the offer.

In their review of workgroup questions, the Vice-Chair also was in favor of tracking policy compliance within the system; they added that this would not be to penalize programs, but rather to improve areas of frequent noncompliance. The Chair was in favor of tracing policy compliance, stating that anything less than written policy would not be effective at maintaining programs' compliance. They requested feedback from a member who takes organ offers whether this would be a significant burden to them. The member replied that it seemed like a significant burden to indicate which Tier requirements had been met for each tier across each organ offer. However, they acknowledged that if there were technology solutions, such as text alerting for tier 3 alerts, it would likely appear more acceptable for the community.

The Chair contributed that a key element of the system needs to be the flexibility for Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) to adjust the number of offers sent out, as different donors have different levels of difficulty in placement. A member supported this, but said from the transplant program perspective, they would be worried about this flexibility being misused by OPOs to send out excessive numbers of offers. Conversely, in the concept paper, they added, they felt it would be important to highlight the feature that, within Tier 3, programs would only ever receive one notification.

Time Limit Scenarios for Proposed Tiered Framework

There was no discussion for this item.

Next steps:

Staff will incorporate feedback from the Committee into the concept paper.

3. Closing Remarks

This item was not discussed

Upcoming Meeting

- July 23, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Chris Curran
  - Alden Doyle
  - Jill Campbell
  - Kimberly Koontz
  - Steve Potter
  - Jillian Wojtowicz
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Isaac Hager
  - Kerrie Masten
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Andrew Placona
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Joann White