



September 28, 2022

OPTN Summer Comment Period: Optimizing Usage of Organ Offer Filters

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) thanks the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) for the opportunity to offer commentary on the concept paper, *Optimizing Usage of Organ Offer Filters*, presented by the Operations and Safety Committee.

NKF supports initiatives that increase kidney utilization, expedite organ offer acceptance, and decrease cold ischemia, which can potentially lead to delayed graft function and the non-transplantation of procured kidneys.^{1,2} Kidney offer filters can be advantageous to both organ procurement organizations (OPO) and transplant centers. OPOs can share organs efficiently with the ability to place kidneys quickly, reducing the cold ischemic time (CIT) by making organ offers to transplant centers willing to accept specific kidney characteristics, such as those with higher kidney donor profile indexes (KDPI) or a kidney from an older donor. Transplant centers can limit their organ offers to kidneys they are more likely to approve for their patients, significantly reducing the communication traffic and reducing offers from OPOs outside their acceptance criteria.

Without further study, we would caution against making kidney offer filters mandatory. Every kidney transplant program is unique, with varying clinical practices, and mandating its use could cause unintended side effects without understanding how filters impact various centers.

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) thanks OPTN for endeavoring to increase organ utilization and advance technology to improve organ acceptance behaviors. Please get in touch with Morgan Reid, Director of Transplant Policy and Strategy (morgan.reid@kidney.org), if there are opportunities for NKF to support this initiative further.

¹ Nieto-Ríos, J F et al. "Time of Cold Ischemia and Delayed Graft Function in a Cohort of Renal Transplant Patients in a Reference Center." *Indian journal of nephrology* vol. 29,1 (2019): 8-14. doi:10.4103/ijn.IJN_162_18

² Kayler, L K et al. "Impact of cold ischemia time on graft survival among ECD transplant recipients: a paired kidney analysis." *American journal of transplantation : official journal of the American Society of Transplantation and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons* vol. 11,12 (2011): 2647-56. doi:10.1111/j.1600-6143.2011.03741.x



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ki".

Kevin Longino
CEO and Transplant Patient

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Palevsky, MD".

Paul Palevsky, MD
President