



## Annual Program Volume and Fellow Case Log Review

Approved by the ASTS Council: April 30, 2010<sup>1</sup>

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### **Overview**

The ASTS Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the minimum volume requirements for ASTS accredited fellowship training programs. Program volumes exist to demonstrate training programs have sufficient clinical volume for trainees, breadth of complexity, faculty, resources, institutional commitment and stability. Following are the *minimum* program volumes for each organ<sup>2</sup>:

Program Volume Requirements	
Organ Accreditation	Minimum Annual Volume
Kidney	60
Liver	50
Pancreas	20
Intestine	10

To ensure that programs maintain sufficient volume throughout the entire four year accreditation cycle, the Council has asked the Fellowship Training Committee to develop a mechanism to review program volume on an annual basis and establish a mechanism for programs that fail to meet the minimum volume requirements. In addition, the Committee proposes to integrate review of graduating Fellow Case logs as part of this annual volume review.

The Committee proposes the following timeline and actions for annual review of program volume (Table 1) and (Table 2):

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<sup>1</sup> Program to be piloted in 2010 with full implementation in 2011

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 1 for the program volumes necessary to support various numbers of fellows

**Table 1: Timeline and Outline of Actions for Annual Review of Program Volume**

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Time Frame (approximate)</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Request OPTN/UNOS to provide volumes for previous 2 academic years for OPTN Transplant Center code(s) associated with each Fellowship Training Program
<b>2</b>	September 1 <sup>st</sup> – October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Review results, determine if programs met annual program volume standards
<b>3</b>	November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Notify programs of determined status (“Approved”, “Under Review” or “Not Enrolling”)
<b>4</b>	December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Programs “Under Review” submit 6 month volume update.
<b>5</b>	January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Committee reviews 6 month updates. Programs that meet 50% annual threshold will be considered by the Committee to be “Approved” for participation in Match.
<b>6</b>	January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Submit revised quota list to NRMP, with programs placed on “Not Enrolling” status not being eligible to participate in Match.
<b>7</b>	August 1	Repeat OPTN/UNOS request and annual review.

**Notes for items in Table 1**

**Item #1**

*Action:* ASTS will work with OPTN/UNOS to run the list of transplant center codes and generate center volumes, by organ, for the previous academic years (July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>) for each fellowship training program.

*Rationale:* This will allow ASTS to evaluate programs on an annual basis without creating additional work for the programs.

**Item #2**

*Action:* ASTS National Office will group centers by program and provide a summary to the Fellowship Training Committee with deficient programs noted.

*Rationale:* This will allow the Committee to efficiently review information and identify programs that did not meet the volume requirements.

**Item #3**

*Action:* Notify programs of their determined status based on specifics outlined in Table 2.

*Rationale:* This notification will advise programs with insufficient volume that they will not be authorized to accept fellows into ASTS accredited slots until the volume has sufficiently increased.

#### **Item #4**

*Action:* Programs “Under Review” can submit six-month volume update that provides a mechanism to avoid being excluded from the Match.

*Rationale:* The ability to submit a six-month update demonstrates increased volume and would not penalize programs that have intermittent declines in volume.

#### **Item #5**

*Action:* The Committee will review six-month updates from programs “Under Review” to determine if programs have sufficient volume to participate in the Match.

*Rationale:* The six-month update allows programs that had a decrease in volume in the previous year demonstrate that the decrease was temporary. If the program submits the update and has met 50% of the annual volume after six months, the Committee will consider the program eligible for the match. If the program did not demonstrate increased volume during the six months, the program will be designated “Not Enrolling”.

#### **Item #6**

*Action:* The ASTS National Office will submit a revised quota list to NRMP in early January. Programs that are on probation will be excluded from the Match.

*Rationale:* Programs that cannot maintain the minimum volume should be excluded from the Match and barred from accepting fellows for one year. To allow programs with insufficient volume to participate in the Match creates greater problems in two years when the graduating fellows fail to meet their volume requirements. This probationary system allows ASTS to proactively manage programs, ensures programs meet the volume requirements and will reduce the numbers of fellows that do not meet the fellow volume requirements.

#### **Item #7**

*Action:* All programs will be reviewed on an annual basis. For programs that are placed on “Not Enrolling” status, if the volume is below the threshold for another 2 years, the organ specific accreditation will be suspended. The program will need to demonstrate sufficient volumes for 2 consecutive years and reapply to have accreditation re-instated

*Rationale:* Programs that cannot maintain the minimum volume consistently should not be accredited and need to demonstrate a durable increase in volume if they are to be reconsidered.

**TABLE 2: Algorithm for Annual Review of Program Volume**

Annual Volume Requirement (X) Met (+) vs. Unmet (-)			
Year 2 Years Previous	Previous Year	Committee Action at Fall review	Committee Followup of 6 month update
+	+	“Approve” Review next year	NA
-	+	If average < X, program made “Not Enrolling” Review next year	If 6 month update ≥ 50% of X “Approve”
-	+		
+	-	If average is ≥ X, program “Under Review” and request update 7/1 to 12/31	If not, program made “Not Enrolling”
+	-		
-	-	Program made “Not Enrolling” Review next year	NA

**Definitions**

**Annual Volume Requirement (X)** – Defined by specific organ requirement

**Year** – Academic Year (July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>)

**Previous Year** – Year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> of Fall review

**Year 2 Years Previous** – Year previous to “Previous Year”

**6 Month Update** – July 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> of review year

**Approved** – Program meets program volume requirement and can participate in Match

**Under Review** – Program has had insufficient volume one of last two years but if demonstrates sufficient volume at 6 month update may be “Approved”

**Not Enrolling** – Program has failed to demonstrate sufficient program volume to be eligible to participate in Match.

**Additional Information**

“Not enrolling” programs cannot offer training positions for that specific organ. Specifically “Not enrolling” status will include exclusion from the upcoming Match and this will be indicated by notation on the ASTS website. Fellows already matched or training at the program may continue training and receive a certificate assuming all other requirements are met.

All programs filling positions that were not filled during the Match must inform the ASTS office immediately after filling positions. Programs “Under Review” may not offer positions outside the match.

If program is in “Not Enrolling” status three sequential years, accreditation for that organ will be removed. This three year period is what is required to allow fellows matched while program was under “Full Approval” to complete training (e.g. a resident matching in Spring 2010 will not start Fellowship until July 2011 and finish in June 2013). Program would be eligible to reapply after 2 sequential years of meeting program volume requirements

### **Review of Graduating Fellow Case Logs**

The case logs of graduating fellows will be reviewed annually as well. In situations where the fellow does not meet the fellow volume requirements, the Fellowship Training Committee will investigate. In situations where this occurs at a program that has more than one fellow at a time, the Committee may decrease the fellow allotment. If the committee recommendation involves suspension or removal of a specific organ program accreditation, this will be presented to Council for approval.

### **Reaccreditation of Program**

The details in this proposal focus only on volume. Programs will continue to have scheduled 4 year reaccreditation cycles focusing on all details of the program. These reaccreditation applications will be reviewed by Committee and recommendation presented formally to Council (similar to current process)

## Appendix 1

The following table illustrates the program volumes necessary to support various numbers of fellows.

<b>KIDNEY</b>				
	<b>1 every other yr.</b>	<b>1 every yr.</b>	<b>3 every 2 yrs.</b>	<b>2 per yr.</b>
<b>Required annual volume</b>	60	60	60	60
<b>Potential fellow volume</b>	120	60	40	30
<b>LIVER</b>				
	<b>1 every other yr.</b>	<b>1 every yr.</b>	<b>3 every 2 yrs.</b>	<b>2 per yr.</b>
<b>Required annual volume</b>	50	50	68	90
<b>Potential fellow volume</b>	100	50	45	45
<b>PANCREAS</b>				
	<b>1 every other yr.</b>	<b>1 every yr.</b>	<b>3 every 2 yrs.</b>	<b>2 per yr.</b>
<b>Required annual volume</b>	20	20	23	30
<b>Potential fellow volume</b>	40	20	15	15
<b>INTESTINE</b>				
	<b>1 every other yr.</b>	<b>1 every yr.</b>	<b>3 every 2 yrs.</b>	<b>2 per yr.</b>
<b>Required annual volume</b>	10	10	15	20
<b>Potential fellow volume</b>	20	10	10	10