

## **OPTN Minority Affairs Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**April 18, 2022**

**Conference Call**

**Paulo Martins, MD, PhD, Chair**

**Alejandro Diez, MD, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 04/18/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Update
2. *Establish OPTN Requirement for Race-Neutral estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) Calculations* (Voting item)
3. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update & Defining Vulnerable Populations
4. Transparency in Program Selection

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

#### **1. Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Update**

The Committee heard an update on the SDOH study from UNOS research.

##### Summary of discussion:

A member asked about methods used for data linkage and validation. The presenter explained that because the vendor has a robust data set, they were able to link about 99% of the ever waiting kidney cohort. They explained that the data was linked through geographic information, social security number, and age/date of birth. A committee member suggested the use of geospatial data to create maps that show which regions of the country may be more affected by SDOH factors. A HRSA committee member asked if the presenters had done any data analysis on SDOH for candidates who live farther away from transplant hospitals in rural areas. The presenter confirmed that this data has been captured by using patient address. The same member mentioned that there are a variety of SDOH covariates and asked if there was a way to determine which covariate may be the most dependable. The presenter responded that one way to do this is to examine how each variable is independently associated with waitlist outcomes in addition to examining the correlation between the variables themselves.

##### Next steps:

UNOS research will consider the Committee's comments and questions.

#### **2. Establish OPTN Requirement for Race-Neutral estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) Calculations (Voting item)**

The Committee reviewed post-public comment feedback, discussed transition planning, approved policy language, and voted on sending the *Establish OPTN Requirement for Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations* proposal to the OPTN Board of Directors (BOD) for action in June 2022.

Summary of discussion:

A member noted a comment that suggested the removal of race from eGFR calculations may decrease the number of qualified Black living donors. This member pointed out that programs are required to use measured, not estimated GFR to assess the eligibility of living donors.

Updates to the proposal's transition plan were presented. This included clarification of current transplant hospital purview for immediate modification of candidate eGFR waiting time:

If a transplant hospital:

- Registered a candidate to the waiting list without a qualifying eGFR value and at a later date used a race-inclusive eGFR calculation to qualify the candidate to begin accruing waiting time

Then the transplant hospital may:

- Recalculate the candidate's eGFR using a race-neutral calculation and update the candidate's qualifying eGFR date in the OPTN Computer system

A member asked when transplant programs will be required to stop using race- inclusive eGFR calculations and how the programs will notify the OPTN of their transition. The presenter responded that programs will be expected to transition to race-neutral eGFR calculations by September 1, 2022. This member also confirmed that transplant hospitals will be responsible for the identification of candidates who qualify for immediate eGFR waiting time modification on their transplant waiting lists, as the OPTN does not collect information on which eGFR calculation was used or if the calculation included a race-based variable.

*Does the Minority Affairs Committee support sending Establish OPTN Requirement for Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations for OPTN BOD consideration?*

Vote: 9/100%, Support 0/0% Abstain, 0%/0 Oppose

The Committee also discussed plans for a follow on proposal in August 2022. This proposal would aim to address the modification of waiting time for Black kidney candidates who were impacted by race-inclusive eGFR calculations. It would provide programs the opportunity to modify the waiting time of impacted candidates who were already listed at the time of implementation, as not to disadvantage this group based upon time of listing. This proposal would allow programs to backdate waiting time to an earlier qualifying date for Black kidney candidates, regardless of listing date. The Committee determined they would move forward with the development of this proposal.

Next steps:

The *Establish OPTN Requirement for Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations* proposal will move forward for OPTN BOD action in June 2022. The Committee will begin work on a proposal to modify the waiting time of Black kidney candidates who were impacted by race- inclusive eGFR calculations.

**3. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update & Defining Vulnerable Populations**

The Committee heard an update from the POC and discussed vulnerable populations.

Summary of discussion:

A member agreed with the presented list of vulnerable populations, but recommended an evidence-based prioritization of which groups should be considered more vulnerable than others. This member also suggested that some of the categorical groups which overlap could be streamlined. The Committee member gave the example that highly sensitized could be included within biologically disadvantaged. A member confirmed that pediatric candidates would be captured under the age category on the

vulnerable populations list. The Committee also supported including living donors on the vulnerable populations list.

Next steps:

The POC will consider the Committee's recommendations.

**4. Transparency in Program Selection**

The Committee heard a presentation on an upcoming white paper from the OPTN Ethics Committee.

Summary of discussion:

A member pointed out that it can be difficult to use subjective factors to determine who should and should not be listed and that oftentimes minorities are not listed on the basis that they lack social support.

Next steps:

The Ethics committee will take the Committee's comments into consideration. One or two MAC members will volunteer for participation on the Ethics Committee's workgroup.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- May 16, 2022 @ 1pm ET

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Paulo Martins
  - Amaka Eneanya
  - Ayana Andrews-Joseph
  - Christine Hwang
  - Jason Narverud
  - OK Ojogho
  - Stephen Gray
  - Tahaunty Peña
  - Wayne Tsuang
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
  - Warren McKinney
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Kelley Poff
  - Susan Tlusty
  - Eric Messick
  - Alex Garza
  - Andrew Placona
  - Anne Zehner
  - Carol Covington
  - Cole Fox
  - Darby Harris
  - Jesse Howell
  - Kim Uccellini
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Sara Moriarty
  - Shabnam Kian Khah
  - Tatenda Mupfudze
  - Tina Rhoades
  - Wida Cherikh