

**OPTN Minority Affairs Committee
Meeting Summary
May 15, 2023
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 05/15/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. KDPI Project Update
2. 6-Month Monitoring Report: Establish OPTN Requirements for Race-Neutral eGFR Calculation
3. eGFR Waiting Time Modification Update
4. Open Forum

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

1. KDPI Project Update

The Committee heard a project update on the kidney donor profile index (KDPI). This project aims to remove race and hepatitis C virus (HCV) coefficients from KDPI to better reflect the quality and post-transplant graft survival of kidneys from HCV-positive and African American donors. It was concluded that the Committee would move forward with the proposal to refit the KDPI without race and HCV coefficients. Modeling is a significant component of the project to help understand the impact of refitting KDPI without race and HCV. Therefore, the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) can assist with modeling efforts for both coefficients. The anticipated public comment cycle is January 2024.

The Committee will sponsor the project, and the workgroup will include representation from:

- OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC)
- OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee
- OPTN Disease Transmission Advisory Committee (DTAC)
- OPTN Patient Affairs Committee (PAC)
- American Society of Nephrology (ASN)
- National Kidney Foundation (NKF)

Summary of discussion:

A member inquired about the rationale for removing both race and HCV. Staff replied that both coefficients are known issues, and DTAC recommended simultaneously removing HCV along with race. The Chair added that removing HCV may help improve allocation by increasing organ utilization.

Next steps:

The project will be presented to the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) on June 12, 2023. The project workgroup aims to convene in July 2023.

2. 6-Month Monitoring Report: Establish OPTN Requirements for Race-Neutral eGFR Calculation

The Committee heard an update on the 6-month monitoring report, *Requirements for a Race-Neutral eGFR Calculation*, implemented in July 2022.

Data summary:

- Overall, there were no large changes in waitlist additions or transplants for Black kidney candidates.
- There were no substantial changes in additions and transplants pre- vs. post-dialysis.
- Further monitoring is needed to determine the true impacts of the policy.
- Additional outcomes metrics on 1-year report.

Next steps:

The next report will be at 1 year. At this time additional data will be available for the Committees' review.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair commented that they were not surprised by the insignificant changes in waitlist and transplant data results, given that one of the biggest challenges is accessing referrals for transplant evaluation and listing.

3. eGFR Waiting Time Modification Update

The Committee heard an update on eGFR waiting time modifications.

As of May 1, 2023:

- 2031 modifications submitted.
- 49 programs submitted modifications.
- 6 programs submitted attestations.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked how many kidney transplant programs there are in the United States. Staff replied there are 253 kidney programs. The member also asked what efforts are being made to increase modification submissions. Staff replied that internal staff is discussing targeted outreach methods to programs that did not attend the eGFR implementation webinar and have not interacted with the UNOS connect course or resources in the eGFR toolkit on the OPTN website.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to monitor the eGFR waiting time modification progress.

4. Open Forum

The Committee used this time to have an open discussion.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice-Chair stated that the Committee should brainstorm project ideas including both renal and non-renal-related projects. He explained that recent projects have been kidney focused and reminded the Committee of their ability to branch out beyond this topic.

Upcoming Meeting

- July 17, 2023 @3pm ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Paulo Martins
 - Alejandro Diez
 - Amaka Eneanya
 - April Stempien-Otero
 - Ayana Andrews-Joseph
 - Christiana Gjelaj
 - Christine Hwang
 - Stephen Gray
 - Tony Urey
 - Wayne Tsuang
 - Steve Averhart
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Shelley Grant
 - Jim Bowman
 - Mesmin Germain
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Monica Colvin
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kelley Poff
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Jasmine Gaines
 - Jesse Howell
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Sara Moriarty