

# Establish OPTN Requirement for Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations

*OPTN Minority Affairs and Kidney Transplantation Committees*

# Purpose of Proposal

- *Reassess Inclusion of Race in eGFR Equation Request for Feedback, Summer 2021*
  - The vast majority of community feedback supported establishing an OPTN requirement for race-neutral eGFR calculations
- The purpose of this proposal is to create OPTN policy that would prohibit use of any race-based variables in eGFR calculations
- Increase equity in access to transplantation for Black kidney candidates by more accurately estimating their eGFR values

# Project Background

- The estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) is commonly used as a surrogate to measure kidney function
- To attain eGFR values, various formulas are utilized, some utilizing Black race as one of the variables
- Recent research suggests that use of the Black race coefficient disadvantages Black patients being treated for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
- Current OPTN policy is not prescriptive of what if any eGFR formula transplant program must use
  - Formulas that include and exclude race are permitted for OPTN use

# Proposal

- Define Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) in *OPTN Policy 1.2 Definitions*:
  - Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR): A measure of filtering capacity of the kidneys. GFR can be measured directly or estimated (eGFR) using various formulae. Formulae used to calculate an eGFR must not use a race-based variable
- The proposed definition:
  - Prohibits use of formulae used to calculate eGFR that include a race-based variable
  - Applies to all OPTN policies that include eGFR

# Rationale

- Potential consequences of using the Black race coefficient:
  - Delayed referral for transplant
  - Delayed initiation for qualified waiting time for non-dialysis patients
  - Impede timely CKD management and contribute to worse outcomes
  - Exacerbate existing disparities in transplantation
- The Black race variable in the CKD-EPI formula increases Black patients' eGFR by as much as 16%, despite having all other variables in the formula remain equal

# Rationale

- Community response to *Reassess Inclusion of Race in eGFR Equation Request for Feedback* supported an OPTN policy to prohibit use of any race-based variables in eGFR calculations:
  - American Society of Transplantation (AST)
  - Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO)
  - American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS)
  - Society for Transplant Social Workers (STSW)
  - The Organization for Donation and Transplant Professionals (NATCO)
  - American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA)
  - OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee
  - OPTN Patient Affairs Committee
  - OPTN Ethics Committee
  - OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee
  - Sentiment from 11 OPTN regional meetings

# Rationale

- Supportive work from the *National Kidney Foundation and American Society of Nephrology on Reassessing the Inclusion of Race in Diagnosing Kidney Diseases*:
  - March 2021: Released statement asserting that race modifiers should not be included in equations to estimate kidney function
  - June 2021: Released interim report outlining work to date
  - September 2021: Released final recommendations, including CKD-EPI creatinine equation refit without the race variable

# Member Actions

- If a transplant program's current eGFR calculation includes race they will be required to transition to a calculation without race
  - eGFR calculations that include race-based variables will be prohibited for the purposes of the OPTN

# What do you think?

- Do you agree with the proposed policy solution?
- What changes would programs need to make to align with the proposed policy?
- What kind of educational resources are needed?
- What impact would this proposal have on patients?