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
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
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?