

**OPTN Minority Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2019
Conference Call**

**Irene Kim, MD, Chair
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Introduction

The Minority Affairs Committee (the Committee) met via teleconference on July 15, 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. MAC News
2. Kidney-Pancreas Allocation Update
3. Committee Orientation
4. Socio-economic Status (SES) Workgroup Update

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

1. MAC News

The Vice Chair introduced a recent article analyzing the consequences of using race to estimate kidney function via GFR.

Summary of discussion:

One committee member wondered how prescriptive policy language was regarding the GRF formula and value and whether testing practices varied from center to center. One committee member explained that there are two common formulas to calculate GFR used by most transplant centers. The member noted that GFR is often a preferable method for analysis due to the fact that it is non-invasive and that while there are more accurate tests for disease analysis they are much more invasive. The committee member echoed concerns that certain racial subpopulations could be disadvantaged due to the formula for GFR and the significance of GFR value in accumulating wait time.

Several members expressed interest in pursuing this topic as a project by analyzing if there is a potential racial discrepancy that may be perpetuated by GFR.

A UNOS staff member displayed *Policy 8.4* that outlines the requirements for accumulating kidney waiting time and clarified that patients can be listed without meeting any requirements whereas there are certain GFR requirements for accumulating waiting time. One committee member recommended writing a letter to the editor to clarify this difference. The member also expressed that the committee could recommend using a specific formula for GFR that focuses on height and weight.

Another committee member asked for input regarding which GFR formula is most commonly used. A committee member responded that the modification of diet in renal disease equation (MDRD) and the chronic kidney disease equation (CKD-EPI) are the most commonly used formula in their personal experience. Another member noted that the paper actually recommended using a new formula. This member spoke in favor of recommending that centers consider performing extra tests and GFR analysis for certain patients borderline to the 20 GFR threshold, potentially those who are African-Americans, due to the fact that the paper estimates that 16% of GFR scores are overestimated.

One member asked what the OPTN process is for submitting a letter to the editor. A UNOS staff member said they would need to check and get back to the committee. Multiple members spoke in favor of submitting such a favor.

Next steps:

The UNOS staff member will confirm the process for submitting a letter to the editor on behalf of the Committee.

2. Kidney-Pancreas Allocation Update

A committee member gave an update on the current discussions regarding the Kidney and Pancreas proposals.

Data Summary:

There were two preferred modeling variations identified following the in-person meetings on June 26th, 500.500.4.8 and 250.250.2.4. The discussion centered on modeling results and increased access for key subgroups, as well as a balance of broader distribution and system efficiency.

Summary of Discussion:

The presenter noted that the decision for a final circle size was a challenging one for the OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee. The presenter also noted that from a data standpoint there was not much variation between the different circle size options. Another member noted that they were a part of the pancreas discussions and the main goal of the new allocation systems is to remove DSA and replace with a more rational system that allows for broader sharing.

Next Steps:

The Committee will hear the public comment proposals for both the new Kidney and Pancreas allocation systems during the public comment cycle.

3. Committee Orientation

A UNOS staff member presented committee orientation.

Summary of Discussion:

There was no discussion.

4. Socio-economic Status (SES) Workgroup Update

A UNOS staff member presented an update about the SES Workgroup.

Summary of Discussion:

One member asked about the possibility of writing a peer-reviewed article on the subject. The UNOS staff members explained that their resources and time are dedicated to OPTN products and that any independent peer-reviewed paper would need to be created separately by workgroup members rather than a product of the OPTN Minority Affairs Committee. UNOS staff members clarified that the workgroup members could use the data request that was delivered to the Committee in an independent publication.

The Committee members indicated a preference for pursuing a data collection proposal as opposed to a white paper.

Next Steps:

The Workgroup will meet on August 5th to continue work on the project.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 5, 2019 – SES Workgroup
- Sept 23, 2019 – In Person Meeting