

OPTN Minority Affairs Committee

Meeting Summary

April 17, 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 04/17/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. eGFR Implementation Update
2. New project Ideas

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

1. eGFR Implementation Update

The Committee heard an implementation update on eGFR waiting time modifications.

Data summary:

UNOS Connect Course engagement as of 1/5/23 – 4/14/23.

- 282 completed
- 130 in progress
- 36 pending implementations
- 210 programs have interacted with the course

eGFR Modification webinar engagement on 3/13

- 788 registrations
- 573 attendees
- 110 questions/comments submitted via the chat feature
- 221 views on the OPTN website as of 4/14

eGFR Submission Totals as of 1/15/23 -4/10/23

- 817 completed modifications
- 35 programs
- 6 attestations submitted

Summary of discussion:

The Chair expressed concerns that since the implementation of *OPTN Policy 3.7.D* on January 5, 2023, only 35 programs that have submitted modifications out of the 200 + kidney transplant programs in the U.S. The Vice-Chair pointed out that this is a new policy, and it takes time for programs to familiarize themselves with the policy requirements. Therefore, the Vice Chair expressed less concerned about the total number of wait time modification submissions thus far.

A member asked if programs have been submitting wait time modifications in one batch or on a case-by-case basis. Staff replied that typically larger transplant programs have been submitting modifications in batches. Staff further explained that as an effective practice, some programs have been evaluating active kidney transplant candidates before evaluating inactive candidates. A member shared that at their program, wait time modifications may be submitted in batches. This member continued that although they are a smaller program, they have divided work amongst staff, and they are thoroughly reviewing their supporting documentation for patients to find out what documentation they need. They noted that the current waitlisted African American data report updated weekly by the OPTN has been beneficial when assessing their waiting list. This member also suggested updating the community on the progress of the eGFR implementation. Members agreed and recommended updating the community on eGFR implementation efforts during the upcoming regional meeting cycle.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to receive updates and discuss the implementation of *OPTN Policy 3.7.D*.

2. New project Ideas

The Committee discussed new project ideas.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair stated that the Committee's next project would include the removal of race and hepatitis C virus (HCV) from the kidney donor profile index (KDPI). He also noted that previous Committee projects have been kidney-related and suggested diversifying project ideas. He noted that various projects were discussed in previous meetings, such as projects related to rural versus urban populations, pediatric populations, and sex and gender disparities. A member agreed and proposed reviewing a list of projects other Committees are working on so that the Committee can be aware of potential projects for collaboration. The Vice-Chair agreed and added that it would be beneficial to understand disparities in other organ groups, which may help generate project ideas for the Committee.

Staff suggested the Committee could perform a holistic policy review. This would include reviewing OPTN Policy and determining if there are other calculations, like eGFR, or other aspects of policy that should be reviewed for any inequities. Staff explained that this could be a proactive approach to ensure equitable OPTN policies.

Another member commented that the Committee could investigate other equity issues. They explained that the Ethics Committee had a white paper out for the Winter 2023 public comment cycle advocating that multiple listings should not be allowed. This member continued that prohibiting multiple listings may disadvantage certain social economic groups and may be of interest for the Committee. Additionally, as organ allocation transitions to a continuous distribution (CD) framework, the member noted that it might be worth investigating any potential geographical inequities because in the CD model, larger programs may receive more organ offers than other programs.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to consider potential projects during future meetings.

Upcoming Meeting

- May 15, 2023, at 3pm ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Paulo Martins
 - Alejandro Diez
 - Anthony Panos
 - April Stempien-Otero
 - Ayana Andrews-Joseph
 - Christiana Gjelaj
 - Christine Hwang
 - Reynold Lopez- Solar
 - Manuel Rodriguez
 - Niviann Blondet
 - Steven Averhart
 - Tony Urey
 - Wayne Tsuang
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Shelley Grant
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kelley Poff
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Carol Covington
 - Jesse Howell
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Mel Farley
 - Roger Brown
- **Other Attendees**
 - Obi Ekwenna
 - Sandy Edwards