

# Revision of General Considerations in Assessment for Transplant Candidacy

*OPTN Ethics Committee*

# Rationale for White Paper

- Use of psychosocial, non-medical criteria in listing evaluations raises ethical concerns
- Lack of clear standards and thresholds
  - Likely leads to inconsistent distribution of benefits
  - Undermines respect and concern for individuals
- Susceptible to stereotyping and value judgments
- Not transparent to patients

# Purpose of White Paper

- Encourage ethically principled use of psychosocial, non-medical criteria in listing evaluations
  - Reflect balance of ethical principles of utility, justice, and respect for persons
  - Be applied without bias
- Update existing information and address new criteria
- Ethical considerations of non-medical criteria begin to establish a minimum standard for their use

# Proposal

- Provides transplant programs information about non-medical criteria when evaluating individuals for potential inclusion on waitlist

## Revised

Life expectancy

Potentially injurious behavior

Adherence

Repeat transplantation

## New

Incarceration status

Immigration status

Social support

- Reinforces concept that potential transplant candidate evaluations should be transparent, evidence-based, and revisable
- Supports standardization by encouraging transplant programs to consider ethical implications of the use of non-medical criteria

# What do you think?

- What, if any, other considerations should be included related to the identified non-medical criteria?
- What, if any, other non-medical criteria should be addressed, and why?
- What other opportunities are there to encourage transplant programs to employ at least minimum standards ensure psychosocial, non-medical criteria are applied consistently?