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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revised</th>
<th>New</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>Incarceration status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potentially injurious behavior</td>
<td>Immigration status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adherence</td>
<td>Social support</td>
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<td>Repeat transplantation</td>
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- 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?