

**OPTN Minority Affairs Committee
Meeting Summary
November 18, 2024
Conference Call**

**Alejandro Diez, MD, Chair
Oscar Serrano, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 11/18/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Monitor Ongoing eGFR Modification Requirements Project

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

1. Monitor Ongoing eGFR Modification Requirements Project

The Committee received feedback from stakeholder committees. Then, the Committee reviewed draft policy language and voted on submitting the proposed policy language for *Monitor Ongoing eGFR Modification Policy Requirements* to January 2025 public comment.

Summary of discussion:

Decision #1: The Committee determined that to be as transparent as possible and give the entire transplant community an opportunity to provide feedback, the Committee would include the requirement for all candidates registered on or after January 4, 2024, to receive the proposed education, eligibility, and outcome notifications in the public comment proposal.

Decision #2: The Committee approved an edit to further clarify that *every kidney transplant candidate needs to be assessed for eligibility regardless of waiting time criteria or waiting list status, including those registered for multi- organ transplant.*

Decision #3: The Committee voted the proposed policy language to the January 2025 public comment period. Vote: 14- Support, 0- Oppose, 0- Abstain.

Members of stakeholder committees expressed their concerns with the proposed requirement for all candidates registered on or after January 4, 2024, to receive the proposed education, eligibility, and outcome notifications. Current policy requirements for candidates registered on or after January 4, 2024, do not include a requirement to inform candidates of their eligibility. This update would require programs to retrospectively notify candidates of their eGFR modification eligibility and/or outcome and document this notification according to the updated policy language and written protocol. Stakeholder committee representatives noted that this requirement would not only be burdensome for programs, but also confusing from a compliance perspective. They elaborated that they did not feel it fair or ethical to implement new notification requirements that could put previously compliant programs out of compliance with a policy that was enacted over two years ago. These stakeholder committee members added that addressing retroactive compliance would divert resources away from current priorities and would cause disruption to transplant programs' operations. During previous meetings MAC members, including patient representatives, emphasized the importance of notifying every candidate of their

eligibility and/or outcome. These MAC members expressed that all registered kidney candidates should receive the same detailed information and that this should not differ based on when a candidate was registered to the waiting list. The MAC appreciated the stakeholder Committees' feedback and determined that to be as transparent as possible and give the entire transplant community an opportunity to provide feedback, the Committee would include this requirement in the public comment proposal. Members of stakeholder committees expressed that they will be prepared to provide similar feedback during public comment.

When reviewing the policy language, a member of a stakeholder committee proposed an edit to further clarify that *every kidney transplant candidate needs to be assessed for eligibility regardless of waiting time criteria or waiting list status, including those registered for multi-organ transplant*. The Committee agreed with this language change.

Then, the Committee determined they were prepared to vote on submitting proposed policy language for the *Monitor Ongoing eGFR Modification Requirements proposal* for January 2025 public comment. Committee voting quorum requirements were met. The Committee was posed the following question, *Does the OPTN Minority Affairs Committee recommend submitting the proposed policy language to the January 2025 public comment period?* The Committee voted the proposed policy language to the January 2025 public comment period. Vote: 14- Support, 0- Oppose, 0- Abstain.

Next steps:

The Committee will submit *the Monitor Ongoing eGFR Modification Requirements proposal* to the January 2025 public comment period.

Upcoming Meetings

- December 16, 2024, 3-4pm ET
- January 20, 2025, 3-4pm ET
- February 24, 2025, 3-4pm ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alejandro Diez
 - April Stempien-Otero
 - Christy Baune
 - Catherine Vascik
 - Sandy Edwards
 - John Bayton
 - Niviann Blondet
 - Christy Baune
 - Tony Panos
 - Tatia Jackson
 - Donna Dennis
 - Obi Davies Ekwenna
 - Hilda Fernandez
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
 - Warren McKinney
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Alex Carmack
 - Kelley Poff
 - Meng Li
- **Other Attendees**
 - Ashley Cardenas
 - Kristin Smith
 - Karl Neumann