Reassess Race in Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) Calculation Workgroup
OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) and OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
March 1, 2021
Conference Call

Irene Kim, MD, MAC Chair
Paulo Martins, MD, PhD, MAC Vice Chair
Martha Pavlakis, MD, Kidney Committee Vice Chair

Introduction

The Reassess Race in eGFR Calculation Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 3/1/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introduction: eGFR and Race
2. Project Overview
3. Overview of eGFR in OPTN Policy
4. Project Timeline and Next Steps

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

1. Introduction: eGFR and Race

Summary of discussion:

There were no comments or questions.

2. Project Overview

Summary of discussion:

A member stated that UNOS is not descriptive in the use of race in the eGFR calculation and use varies by program. A member asked if the plan for this project was to focus only on race in eGFR as opposed to having a wider scope that would include additional issues, such as prelisting. Another member responded that this project will have a narrow scope, focused on reducing inequities within eGFR. A member stated that the race and eGFR issue would be addressed first, but that this could be followed by discussion on addressing other challenges that are present. They added that the present sense of urgency from the transplant community makes the eGFR issue the priority.

A member stated that the workgroup will need data to help in the development of the project and to fully identify the problem. The member continued by asking if there were any data available to illustrate the impact of race in the eGFR calculation. A subject matter expert (SME) responded that there is some good data available that could help with this project.

3. Overview of eGFR in OPTN Policy

The Workgroup reviewed current policy and the Final Rule relevant to the project.

Summary of discussion:

It was agreed that this project would not require any programming. The work would be at the transplant center level.

A patient and advocate member of the workgroup asked how to provide input to the project. A member stated that hearing the patient perspective would be powerful for the project. The SME agreed that from experience and discussions on this topic, a patient perspective would be very helpful in the development of this project.

A member stated that OPTN policy is not prescriptive to which equation transplant programs must use. Currently, programs are expected to set up their own protocols to follow. A member asked if the Workgroup should think about if this policy should be retroactive for those patients who have already been disadvantaged. A member stated that this would be something the Workgroup would need to think about and discuss how to address those current patients.

4. **Project Timeline and Next Steps**

The Workgroup reviewed the timeline of the project.

Summary of discussion:

A member clarified that the goal of this project is to a develop policy proposal, but whether this project was to develop a policy or guidance document, either would need to go through the policy development process. A member noted that there has been some discussion within the community of hesitancy in taking out race in the eGFR equation, but overall it is believed that this project would be impactful in decreasing inequities to transplantation.

Upcoming Meeting

- March 29, 2021 (Teleconference)

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
  - Denise Alveranga
  - Arpita Basu
  - Beatrice Conception
  - Alejandro Diez
  - Amaka Eneanya
  - Irene Kim
  - Jim Kim
  - Paulo Martins
  - Dolamu Olaitan
  - Martha Pavlakis
  - Precious McCowan
  - Peter Reese
  - Oscar Serrano
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Lindsay Larkin
  - Lauren Motley
  - Kelley Poff
  - Matt Prentice
  - Tina Rhoades
  - Leah Slife
  - Kiana Stewart
  - Kayla Temple
  - Ross Walton
  - Joann White
- **Other Attendees**
  - Vince Casingal