

## **OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC)**

### **Meeting Summary**

**March 15, 2021**

**Conference Call**

**Irene Kim, MD, Committee Chair**

**Paulo Martins, MD Committee Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 3/15/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Reassess Race in estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) Calculation Workgroup Update
2. RFI: The Use of Clinical Algorithm That Have the Potential To Introduce Racial Ethnic Bias Into Healthcare Delivery
3. Public Comment Presentation: Revise General Considerations in Assessment for transplant Candidacy
4. Public Comment Presentation: 2021 -2024 OPTN Strategic Plan
5. New Project Brainstorm

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

#### **1. Reassess Race in eGFR Calculation Workgroup Update**

The Committee were provided an update on the Reassess Race and estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) workgroup.

##### Summary of discussion:

The project was just approved by the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC). Currently the project is in the evidence gathering phase.

The timeline of the project is as follows:

- March – April 2022 – Project planning
- April – October 2021 – Evidence Gathering
- November – December 2021 – Draft Public Comment Document
- January – March 2022 – Public Comment

A member stated that this project would not present consequence on any racial group, but instead remove the disadvantage of race being included in the eGFR calculation. Another member added that this is a change that the Committee should be leading.

A member asked if Pulmonary Function Tests (PFTs) also use a race coefficient. Another member stated that race coefficients utilized in other organ equations should be considered. A member solicited feedback from other members for their experience in using the race coefficient within the eGFR equation. This varied from program to program. One member stated that race is not calculated among children. Another member continued that race should not be a factor that is calculated. This project will help to provide national guidance in making this change.

##### Next Steps:

The Committee will hear another update on this project at a future meeting.

## **2. RFI: The Use of Clinical Algorithm That Have the Potential to Introduce Racial Ethnic Bias Into Healthcare Delivery**

The Committee reviewed and provided their feedback on a current Request For Information (RFI) related to clinical algorithms that have the potential to introduce racial ethnic bias into healthcare delivery.

### Summary of discussion:

MAC members are asked to provide their feedback by March 29<sup>th</sup>. The feedback received will be reviewed and be incorporated into a final response by the OPTN.

A member stated that the questions seem to be very broad and that the Committee should respond to those questions that are relevant to their subject matter expertise (eGFR, KDPI and lung function testing). The Committee will be assigned certain sections to provide their feedback on which will then be compiled and reviewed.

### Next Steps:

The Committee's feedback, along with feedback from the OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee will be used to draft a response from the OPTN.

## **3. Public Comment Presentation: Revise General Considerations in Assessment for transplant Candidacy**

The Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the OPTN Ethics Committee's Revise General Considerations in Assessment for Transplant Candidacy guidance document.

### Summary of discussion:

A member stated their support for the efforts of the Ethics Committee in this work. Another member asked the Ethics Committee to consider developing a review board to evaluate patient psychosocial support in a more objective manner. A member acknowledged that certain patients will not be eligible for transplant due to non-medical criteria or their inability to continue treatment after transplant, but that patients should not be turned away from transplant if the reason for the denial has a viable solution.

### Next Steps:

Staff will draft a comment for committee leadership approval and post to the OPTN Public Comment website on the Committee's behalf.

## **4. Public Comment Presentation: 2021 -2024 OPTN Strategic Plan**

The Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the OPTN Executive Committee's 2021 – 2024 OPTN Strategic Plan request for feedback.

### Summary of discussion:

A member noted their support for the strategic plan and agreed that 30% of the effort for goal 2, increase equity in access to transplants, is appropriate. Another member suggested providing more clarity in goal 2 by including specific prioritization of the projects that will provide equity in access to transplants. A member voiced support for the prioritization of pediatric patients across multi- organ transplantation.

### Next Steps:

Staff will draft a comment for committee leadership approval and post to the OPTN Public Comment website on the Committee's behalf.

## **5. New Project Brainstorm**

The Committee discuss and shared ideas for new projects.

### Summary of discussion:

A member suggested a project collecting data on patients being transplanted in the U.S. who are non-citizens. A member asked how UNOS is able to follow up with international patients and their care after transplant. UNOS staff clarified that there is a challenge in maintaining data after transplant for these patients after they leave the country. UNOS staff provided additional information on work being done by the OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (AHIRC) who provides an annual report on this particular data. This could be shared with the Committee at an upcoming meeting to evaluate this further.

A member stated that while the eGFR project plans to address kidney patients, there are other Equations pertaining to transplantation where race coefficients are used. The Committee could look into these areas and address them in a future project.

### Next Steps:

UNOS Staff will contact AHIRC support staff to inquire about a presentation of international patient transplant data.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- April 19, 2021 (Teleconference)
- May 17, 2021 (Teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Juan del Rio Martin
  - Lakeicha Gunter
  - Stephen Gray
  - Nicole Hayde
  - Christine Hwang
  - Irene Kim
  - Reynold Lopez- Soler
  - Paulo Martins
  - Okechukwu Ojogho
  - Oyedolamu Olaitan
  - Manuel Rodriguez- Davalos
  - Wayne Tsuang
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Chelsea Haynes
  - Eric Messick
  - Lauren Motley
  - Kelley Poff
  - Matthew Prentice
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Leah Slife
  - Ross Walton
  - Joann White
  - Anne Zehner
- **Guests**
  - Andrew Flescher (ethics committees, vice chair)
  - Pono Sim (visiting board member)