

**Reassess Race in Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) Calculation Workgroup
OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) and OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
May 3, 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 05/03/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Discussion on Scope
2. Request for Feedback (RFF)
3. Discussion

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

1. Discussion on Scope

The Workgroup reestablished the scope of this project.

Summary of discussion:

A member explained that the Workgroup will focus on the development of policy specific to the use of the Black race coefficient within eGFR as it relates to listing and wait time criteria. This member presented some related disparities and explained that while these disparities are important, they are out of scope for this project.

2. Request for Feedback (RFF)

The Workgroup discussed developing a RFF.

Summary of discussion:

A member explained that the purpose of a RFF is to inform future policy and gather sentiment pre-public comment. This request for feedback is projected for release to public comment in August 2021. When this public comment period ends in October 2021, the Workgroup will use the feedback received to write a proposal for release to public comment in January 2022.

Next steps:

The Workgroup will discuss what feedback they need from the community.

3. Discussion

The Workgroup discussed topics for community feedback questions.

Summary of discussion:

The Workgroup determined they would prefer to pursue policy as opposed to a guidance document. Members agreed that a policy proposal is preferred because it will require change rather than suggest change. A member agreed and added that a policy would support less variation in patient experience and provide more consistency in the kidney transplant candidate listing process.

A member suggested that transplant programs should report what eGFR formula they currently use. UNOS staff responded that this RFF could be used to ask this question along with why the transplant programs use their selected formulae.

The Workgroup determined they would prefer to remove the race coefficient from eGFR formulae as opposed to establish a universal eGFR formula. A member suggested the Workgroup not limit itself to any one formula and noted the current increase in interest for developing new eGFR equations that do not use race. The Workgroup favored making the policy as inclusive as possible.

The Workgroup determined that they would request feedback on how often candidates are listed with non- eGFR and creatinine based methodologies. Another member suggested the Workgroup could give a list of preferred eGFR equations, but that it would be too stringent to limit programs to one formula especially with the amount of developing research in this area. The Workgroup also determined they would seek feedback on program implementation of the removal of race from the eGFR equation including challenges, operational impacts, and methods for a smooth transition.

A member suggested conducting targeted outreach to patients including developing feedback questions specifically for this audience in order to gather the patient perspective on the removal of the Black race coefficient from the eGFR formula.

A member suggested that the RFF ask the community how it would feel about being required to report the specific eGFR formula their program uses. Another member noted that different eGFR formulas may be used within each program or that programs may not know which formula is being used. The member continued that they hesitate to propose new data collection without a clear justification for the request.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will draft RFF questions for Workgroup leadership review and approval.

Upcoming Meeting

- May 28, 2021

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Denise Alveranga
 - Arpita Basu
 - Alejandro Diez
 - Amaka Eneanya
 - Irene Kim
 - Jim Kim
 - Paulo Martins
 - Precious McCowan
 - Oyedolamu Olaitan
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Peter Reese
 - Oscar Serrano
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Vanessa Arriola
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
 - Nick Salkowski
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Laura Cartwright
 - Brittany Judge
 - David Klassen
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Kelley Poff
 - Matt Prentice
 - Tina Rhoades
 - Leah Slife
 - Kayla Temple
 - Ron Vample
 - Ross Walton
 - Joann White
- **Other Attendees**
 - Vincent Casingal