

## **OPTN Minority Affairs Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**October 16, 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 10/16/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Monitor Ongoing eGFR Modification Requirements Project
2. Social Determinants of Health for OPTN Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

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

### **1. Monitor Ongoing eGFR Modification Requirements Project**

The Committee recapped progress from their meeting on 9/30/2024 and reviewed draft policy and evaluation plan language.

During the meeting on 9/30/2024, the Committee finalized the following proposed requirements for the Monitor Ongoing eGFR Modification Requirements Project

- Transplant programs must have a documented process for confirming candidate race
- Update notifications requirements
  - Notifications: 1. Education 2. Eligibility 3. Outcome
  - Candidates registered from January 4, 2024, onward should be required to meet proposed notification requirements
- Transplant programs must have a documented protocol for seeking supporting documentation
  - Requirement for a protocol to seek supporting documentation including at a minimum what sources will be reviewed
- Documentation demonstrating completion of the requirements above

### Summary of discussion:

Decision #1: What constitutes a notification should be included in the evaluation plan.

Decision #2: Multi-organ transplant (MOT) candidates also registered on the kidney transplant waiting list should be assessed for eGFR waiting time modifications.

Meeting attendees reviewed the draft policy language. A member of a stakeholder committee expressed that the draft language is clear and that their program would be able to write and abide by the proposed protocols. This member noted that the requirement for candidates registered from January 4, 2024, onward to meet proposed notification requirements should be added to the draft policy language thoughtfully. Another member of a stakeholder committee voiced two opportunities for improvement in the language:

- 1) Include what constitutes a notification in either the policy language or evaluation plan. Members expressed preference for inclusion in the evaluation plan, as this is the documentation referenced in preparation for site surveys.
- 2) Discuss implications of multi-organ transplant (MOT) related to this project. This attendee noted that most of the time, it is the heart, lung, or liver that drives allocation, so an eGFR waiting time modification will not impact these candidates' kidney listing. Another attendee stated that there are some situations where eGFR waiting time modifications could benefit MOT candidates also registered on the kidney transplant waiting list. They continued that even though the number of potentially impacted candidates would be small, MOT candidates also registered to the kidney transplant waiting list should be assessed for eGFR waiting time modification. The Committee agreed.

A member suggested moving the proposed protocol and documentation requirements from the bottom of the policy language document to the top to make them more noticeable.

Meeting attendees reviewed the draft evaluation plan language. Attendees discussed the items under the section entitled "Review the hospital's internal policies, procedures, and protocols, to verify that it has a written protocol(s) that includes processes for...". The Committee confirmed that the items are reflective of proposed requirements. Attendees discussed that the process by which a program confirms candidate race, fulfills notification requirements, seeks supporting documentation including what sources will be reviewed at a minimum, determines the eligibility of candidates, and applies for a waiting time modification (if applicable) will be up to that program, so long as they have documented protocols and can demonstrate that they are being followed.

Next steps:

During their meeting on 11/18/2024, the Committee will review the updated draft policy and evaluation plan language.

**2. Social Determinants of Health for OPTN Policy Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Committee heard a presentation on social determinants of health (SDOH) and was asked to provide feedback on public data sources that could be used for OPTN Policy Monitoring and Evaluation.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made.

A member offered to seek feedback from others at their institution. This member mentioned that they do not believe the current collection on insurance will be very helpful, as most of the time only patients with insurance are listed for transplant. Some of these patients may receive Medicaid, but qualifications vary from state to state. An attendee noted that starting in 2023, CMS incorporated a requirement for hospitals to report SDOH under the hospital inpatient prospective payment system rule. This attendee also mentioned that SDOH data may be collected on 2728 Forms for kidney patients. A Committee member suggested that non-medical data sources might be investigated. They suggested real estate databases, frequent package delivery routes, and city planning information might be investigated. Another attendee mentioned that Mayo Clinic is working on a housing-based measure of SDOH called HOUSES that uses information such as the number of bathrooms in a home and square footage. They mentioned that this information is available to the public.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- November 18, 2024, 3-4pm ET

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Alejandro Diez
  - Oscar Serrano
  - Donna Dennis
  - Adrian Lawrence
  - Anthony Panos
  - April Stempien-Otero
  - Catherine Vascik
  - Christy Baune
  - Hilda Fernandez
  - Niviann Blondet
  - Ruben E Quiros Tejeira
  - Steven Averhart
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Shelley Tims Grant
  - Adriana Alvarez
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Warren McKinney
  - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Alex Carmack
  - Houlder Hudgins
  - Meng Li
  - Tatenda Mupfudze
  - Kelley Poff
- **Other Attendees**
  - Brittany Clayborne (Visiting Board Member)
  - Ashley Cardenas
  - Karl Neumann
  - Martha Pavlakis