

**OPTN Minority Affairs Committee
Meeting Summary
November 20, 2023
Conference Call**

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

Introduction

The OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (the Committee) met via Webex teleconference on 11/20/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Monitoring Report Presentation: 6 Month Waiting Time Modification/ 1 Year Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations
2. New Project Idea: Race Neutral Requirement for OPTN Policy

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

1. Monitoring Report Presentation: 6 Month Waiting Time Modification/ 1 Year Race- Neutral eGFR Calculations

The Committee heard an update on the 1-year monitoring report for [Establish OPTN Requirements for Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations](#) that was implemented on July 27, 2022. The purpose of the race-neutral estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) calculation policy was to prohibit the use of the eGFR calculation that included a race-based variable in OPTN Policy. This requirement for a race-neutral calculation was intended to increase equity in access to transplantation for Black kidney candidates.

The Committee also heard an update on the 6-month monitoring report for [Modify Waiting Time for Candidates Affected by Race-Inclusive eGFR Calculations](#) that was implemented on January 5, 2023. This policy provides a pathway for waiting time modifications for Black kidney candidates who were affected by a race-inclusive eGFR calculation. This policy requires programs to review their waiting lists and request eGFR waiting time modifications for registered Black kidney candidates impacted by a race-inclusive eGFR calculation.

Data summary:

Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations

- There were no large changes to the kidney waiting list or to the transplant recipient-distributions were similar across the eras.
- There was a decrease of candidates qualifying for waiting time by maintenance dialysis and a corresponding increase in those qualifying as of tiebreaker (registration) date. This suggests a shift to candidates using lab values, such as eGFR, to qualify for waiting time over maintenance dialysis.

Modifications and Attestations

- 6103 processed eGFR waiting time modifications with a median of 1.7 years given to modified registrations.
- 491 candidates with a waiting time modification received a deceased donor transplant, and 15 received a living donor transplant.

- As of July 5, 2023, the OPTN received attestations received from 12 of the 232 active kidney programs.

Summary of discussion:

This was not an agenda item that required a decision; no decisions were made by the Committee.

A member asked if the monitoring report would be published for the public. The presenter replied that the monitoring report would be posted on the OPTN website, and a news item would be released to inform the community. A member inquired if there was an avenue for patients to share their testimonials about their experience receiving a transplant as a result of these policy changes. The presenter replied that this can be discussed with the communications team to determine other ways to highlight patient stories.

2. New Project Idea: Race Neutral Requirement for OPTN Policy

The Committee continued their discussion on new project ideas. Staff proposed a new project to require all calculations and tests used for the OPTN to be race-neutral. This project would involve identifying any other tests and calculations in OPTN Policy that would allow the inclusion of a race variable and assessing the extent of adjustment the community would be required to shift to race neutral methods.

Summary of discussion:

This was not an agenda item that required a decision; no decisions were made by the Committee.

There was consensus among members that removing race from all calculations and tests that the OPTN uses should be done. A member stated that the Committee should move forward with removing race in OPTN policies in organ transplantation.

Next steps:

The Committee will determine whether they would like to move forward with the new project idea.

Upcoming Meeting

- December 18, 2023, at 3pm ET (Teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alejandro Diez
 - Steve Averhart
 - Amaka Eneanya
 - Tony Panos
 - Tatia Jackson
 - Valinda Jones
 - Catherine Vascik
 - Christiana Gjelaj
 - John Bayton
 - Niviann Blondet
 - Obi Ekwenna
 - Sandy Edwards
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kelley Poff
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Jesse Howell
 - Betsy Gans
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Lindsay Larkin