

**OPTN Minority Affairs Committee  
Meeting Summary  
December 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 12/16/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review report: 2 Year Race-Neutral Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) Calculations
2. Enhancing Equity in Access Dashboard

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

### **1. Review report: 2 Year Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations**

The Committee heard a presentation and discussed the *Establish OPTN Requirement for Race Neutral eGFR Calculations* policy two-year results.

#### Data summary:

- Overall, we observed a greater proportion of Black kidney candidates in waitlist additions, and a greater proportion of kidney transplants to Black recipients.
- After the policy, both Black kidney candidates' waitlist additions and their transplants also shifted towards being done pre-dialysis vs. post-dialysis.
- Black kidney candidates' waiting list qualifying source shifted towards a qualifying eGFR or tiebreaker date, and away from dialysis
- Wait list mortality declined for Black kidney candidates, but also for all other race/ethnicity groups after the policy.
- The probability of receiving a transplant within 1-year of listing increased for Black kidney candidates.

#### Summary of discussion:

No decision were made.

A member commented that although causation between the *Establish OPTN Requirement for Race Neutral eGFR Calculations* policy and the monitoring report outcomes cannot be proved, they felt there was strong evidence that the policy is working as intended. Another member pointed out that the data report showed that candidates of race/ethnicities other than Black/African American saw a decrease in kidney waitlist death rate per 100 patient years and an increase in the probability of a deceased-donor kidney transplant within 1 year of listing. The presenter noted that the pre- policy period was from around 2020 to 2022, during the Coronavirus, therefore the death rate was unusually high. They explained that it is possible that the data show the recovery of the effect of the pandemic, which would affect candidates of all races/ethnicities. A member commented that from pre to post policy eras, the

overall kidney transplants by race/ethnicity increased for the Black/African American population, which is in closer alignment with the percentage of Black/African American candidates registered to the waiting list.

## **2. Enhancing Equity in Access Dashboard**

The Committee discussed improved accessibility of the equity in access dashboard.

### Summary of discussion:

Decision #1: The Committee supported an updated dashboard with a rolling 10- year window.

Decision #2: The Committee supported to prove the concept of alternative graphs on Equity In Access dashboard.

The Committee agreed that the dashboard should show a rolling 10- year window, as opposed to its current timeframe of January 2010 to present. The presenter explained that data over 10 years old can be hard to fit within the current system, especially if data collection has changed. They continued that a more recent data cohort would fit the model better as it is more aligned with the data currently collected.

A member suggested that the current dashboard does not properly reflect the relative importance of variability in access to transplantation by race/ethnicity when compared to some of the larger bars on the left of the graph, such as Calculated Panel Reactive Antibody (CPRA). Another member noted that the Minority Affairs Committee's charge is inclusive of all vulnerable populations.

The presenter explained that the research department could provide a report to prove the concept of alternative graphs on Equity In Access dashboard. The goal would be to test feasibility and usefulness of the proposed graphs for future enhancements of the dashboard and a static research report using alternative graphs to show equity in transplant access would be provided to the Committee. The presenter asked if the Committee would support such a data request to produce this report. A member asked how the updated graphs could be used by the public. The presenter responded that these graphs would provide more accessible and transparent information to members of the public, in addition to other OPTN Committees engaging in policy development and evaluation. After comparing the project's estimated resource needs to the estimated benefit, the Committee supported a data request to produce the report.

### Next steps:

The Committee will receive an update on this work during a future meeting.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- January 27, 2025, 3-4pm ET

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Alejandro Diez
  - Oscar Serrano
  - Adrian Lawrence
  - Anthony Panos
  - Catherine Vascik
  - Christy Baune
  - Donna Dennis
  - Hilda Elna Fernandez
  - Ruben Quiros- Tejeira
  - Tony Urey
  - Steve Averhart
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Siegert
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Kelley Poff
  - Meng Li
  - Kaitlin Swanner