



TRANSPLANT QUALITY CORNER

RELEVANT QUALITY-FOCUSED TOPICS IN TRANSPLANTATION

SUMMER 2023



EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW

eGFR OPTN Implementation

January 5, 2023, policy implementation went into effect for OPTN Modifying Waiting Time for Candidates Affected by Race-Inclusive eGFR Calculations; transplant centers have a year to comply with these policy requirements. This document provides education on policy background and requirements, action items for transplant centers to meet policy requirements and a centralized location for tools and resources.

ACTION: What do transplant centers need to do?

Identify cohort of patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Finding the right data b. Creating and utilizing reports c. Identifying patient labs outside of transplant center
Send notification letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Create a notification letter or use a variation of the OPTN letter b. Things to consider: readability, FAQs, point of communication for patients c. Continued implementation- Adherence to this OPTN policy is still required for patients who are being listed between 1/5/2023-1/3/2024 After 1/3/2024, patients will still need to be educated on this policy
Submitting Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Many centers are utilizing a signed PDF for multiple candidates. Some centers have been asked to submit a digital /electronic signature. b. To comment or not to comment? It appears centers have been doing both practices and it doesn't appear to impact the submission process one way or the other. c. You can always resubmit modification forms for consideration if you feel that the patient is qualified for the modification time.
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Some patients are getting A LOT of time back, bouncing them to the top of the list to start receiving offers. This has had a significant operational impact on many transplant centers, especially in ensuring that a patient has been reevaluated recently. b. Some centers are tracking all their patients and the time they should be getting back so they can identify patients who may be receiving significant time back. At some centers the coordinators and physicians review this list frequently to determine if inactivation or expediting of reevaluation is needed.

EDUCATION: Breakdown of policy requirements

By January 3, 2024, all kidney transplant programs will be required to:

ASSESS	Assess waiting list for all registered adult/pediatric Black/African American kidney candidates that have been affected by the use of race-inclusive eGFR calculations. This includes both dialysis and preemptive candidates.		
SUBMISSION	Submit eGFR waiting time modifications for affected adult and pediatric candidates to the OPTN	To qualify for a waiting time modification, transplant programs must provide documentation demonstrating one of the following options along with completed waitlist modification form:	
	Supporting Documentation: the candidate's eGFR value was over 20 mL/min, but with a race-neutral calculation the candidate's eGFR value would have been 20 mL/min or less	1. Documentation of the candidate's eGFR value for Black and non-Black candidates	2. Documentation showing both the estimation of GFR with a race- inclusive calculation and a re-estimation of GFR with race-neutral calculation
		2a A lab report showing estimation of a candidate's GFR with a race-inclusive calculation, including the date and time of estimation	2b Evidence of re-estimation of the candidate's GFR with any race-neutral eGFR calculation demonstrating a qualifying value.
NOTIFICATION	Notify all registered adult and pediatric kidney transplant candidates and kidney/pancreas candidates registered for an isolated kidney transplant.		
	All kidney candidates registered at the transplant program, regardless of race, including active and inactive adult and pediatric candidates must be notified. The OPTN also wants to ensure that every candidate is registered with their correct race in the OPTN Computer System. Sending notifications to all candidates will be informative in the event a kidney candidate's race has been misreported in the OPTN Computer System.		
	FIRST NOTIFICATION	Programs are required to inform all adult and pediatric kidney candidates of the requirements of the program according to the policy	
SECOND NOTIFICATION	After assessing their waiting lists, programs are required to inform all adult and pediatric kidney candidates of the completion of list assessment and of their eligibility status		

eGFR OPTN Implementation, CONT.

BREAKDOWN OF POLICY REQUIREMENTS, CONT.		
ATTESTATION	OPTN policy requires transplant programs to submit documentation attesting to both of the following:	That the transplant program has provided notification to all candidates registered at the transplant program of their eligibility for a waiting time modification according to this policy and
		That the transplant program has submitted eGFR waiting time modifications for all eligible candidates registered at the transplant program
	The attestation can be submitted at any time after a program has gone through their initial identified patient list.	

TOOLS & RESOURCES

- Educational Offering in the OPTN Learning Management System (also known as UNOS Connect)
 - Course KID118: Waiting Time Modifications for Kidney Candidates Affected by Race- Inclusive eGFR Calculations.
 - Sample candidate notification and attestation documentation
- [OPTN Toolkit Waiting Time Modifications for Kidney Candidates Affected by Race- Inclusive eGFR Calculations](#)
 - FAQs for professionals
 - FAQs for patients
 - eGFR implementation webinar
- Examples of race-neutral calculators:
 - Programs may use any eGFR calculator that does not include a race variable.
 - [CKD- EPI 2021](#) has been refit without race by the National Kidney Foundation and American Society of Nephrology
 - [GFR Estimate by MDRD-4 variable equation](#) and all other race inclusive calculators can be made race neutral by selecting “No” for “Black Race”
- Sample Notification Letters
 - [eGFR Patient Notification Letter - African American Candidates](#)
 - [eGFR Patient Notification Letter - Non African American Candidates](#)
 - [eGFR Patient Notification Letter - Sample #1](#)
 - [eGFR Patient Notification Letter - Sample #2](#)



The Transplant Quality Corner offers a series of publications that focus on the latest metrics, data collection and monitoring methods for improving transplant center outcomes. Each issue includes an executive summary, background information, essential tools, action items to implement, references and resources.

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