



Transplant Center

You are receiving this letter because you are registered on the waiting list for a kidney transplant at the University of Michigan Health Transplant Center. If you are registered as a Black or African American candidate, this letter contains important information about possible changes to your waiting time. **No Immediate Action is Required by You.**

A recent United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and Organ Procurement and Transplantation (OPTN) policy change requires all transplant programs to look at their waiting lists to see if any registered Black or African American candidates could receive more waiting time because of the previous use of an eGFR calculation that included a race factor.

Background information on this policy change

- The estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) is one of the criteria used to calculate your transplant waiting time.
- It is possible that your race was used as a factor in your eGFR calculation if your eGFR was calculated before July 27, 2022. Before that date, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) policy did not say if the race factor should or should not be used to calculate your eGFR.
- As of July 27, 2022, OPTN made the policy change that transplant programs can no longer use eGFR calculations that include a race factor.
- Using eGFR calculations that include race can overestimate kidney function for Black or African American individuals. This may have delayed your referral to a transplant program and your registration on the waiting list, impacting your waiting time on the list.
- This policy change means that transplant programs are required to correct, or modify, the waiting times of any Black or African American kidney candidates who were disadvantaged by a previous eGFR calculation that used race.
 - Keep reading to learn more about what you can expect from this policy change

This letter is the first of two notifications that the University of Michigan Health Transplant Center is sending to all registered kidney candidates.

This letter is notifying you about:

- Your clinical information
- What the policy requires University of Michigan Health Transplant Center to do
- Which candidates may be eligible for a waiting time modification
- What documentation you need to get a waiting time modification
- How you can partner with your program to find the lab documents you need for a waiting time modification
- Who to contact if you have questions

What are transplant programs required to do?

By January 3, 2024, all kidney transplant programs must:

- Review their waiting list for registered kidney candidates who have been affected by the use of an eGFR calculation that included a race factor.
- Submit waiting time modifications for affected candidates to UNOS.
- Notify all registered kidney transplant candidates at two points in time:
 1. Before the review of our waiting list, for candidate awareness. **This document serves as the first required candidate notification.**
 2. After the review of our waiting list, to notify candidates whether or not they have received a waiting time modification.
- Submit documentation to UNOS confirming that they have:
 - Reviewed their waiting list.
 - Submitted waiting time modifications to the OPTN.
 - Notified all their registered kidney candidates.

Which candidates may be eligible for a waiting time modification?

You may qualify for a waiting time modification if:

- You are registered as Black or African American on the waiting list and
- You have labs or documentation showing two things: that your eGFR value was over 20 mL/min when a calculation that included race was used, and that you have an eGFR value of 20 mL/min or less when using a calculation that does not include race.

What documentation do I need to get a waiting time modification?

Required documentation can include:

1. One lab report that shows two eGFR results: one that did use race and one that did not use race. These reports are widely available at larger labs.
or
2. Two documents:
 - A lab report that shows your eGFR value of over 20mL/min with a calculation that used race, including the date and time of that estimation.

A re-evaluation of your eGFR value with a calculation that does not use race, showing an eGFR value of 20mL/min or less.

How can I partner with my program to find lab documents?

The Transplant Center is responsible for looking for labs or documentation for you. We encourage you to contact your transplant hospital to see what documentation is available. You can also contact the doctor that referred you to your transplant hospital. This doctor may have labs or documentation that the transplant hospital does not have in its system. Candidates may provide documentation to their transplant hospital at any time.

Please note: The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) and United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) do not collect information about which calculations were used to estimate your eGFR or if the calculation included race. This means that they won't be able to provide this documentation. You should ask your transplant program or your other doctors, including your referring nephrologist, for more information about what calculation was used to assess your eGFR.

Who can I talk to about questions I have?

Please contact your Transplant Waitlist Coordinator at 1-800-333-9013 if:

- You think you may have been disadvantaged by an eGFR calculation that included a race factor
- You feel your race has been recorded incorrectly on the waiting list
- You have labs or documentation for consideration
- You have other questions

How can I learn more about eGFR and this policy change?

- For more information, visit the . Click on “Patients” in the top menu bar, then “Kidney” under the “By organ” subheading. On the “Kidney” page, click on “FAQ: Understanding race-neutral eGFR calculations.”
- Full URL: <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/patients/by-organ/kidney/understanding-the-proposal-to-require-race-neutral-egfr-calculations/>