





To: Medical Directors and Surgical Directors, U.S. Transplant Programs, OPOs & Donor Hospitals

Subject: A call to action to improve kidney transplantation through participation in the ETC Learning Collaborative (ETCLC)

CMS and HRSA are asking all Medical and Surgical Directors to lead improvement efforts, actively participate, and guide work at the local level to ensure the **ETCLC National Aims** for kidney transplantation are met.

Here is where we stand & the action you can lead for improvement:

Actions in use by the ETCLC Donation & Transplant Community to Improve US Kidney Transplantation	ETCLC National Aims	Current	Projected	Target	Status
Transplant Centers (TxC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Waitlist Management & Use UNOS Organ Offer Filters Improve Education to Ensure Patients are Transplant Ready After-Action Reviews & Biopsy to Rule-in Acceptance Donor Hospitals (DH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ Effective Organ Donor Management Improve Donor Team Education Expand & Utilize Interdisciplinary Council Organ Procurement Organizations (OPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive & Timely Family Readiness Expansive Transplant Program & Donor Hospital Relationship Management 	Aim #1. Increase the Number of Deceased Donor Kidneys Transplanted	21,996	22,239	21,232	
	Aim #2a. Decrease Nonuse Rate of KDPI <60	8.7%	8.7%	8.2%	
	Aim #2b. Decrease Nonuse Rate of KDPI >=60	48.7%	48.8%	40.0%	
	Aim #3. Increase the Number of KDPI >=60 Kidneys Recovered for Transplant	14,001	14,242	12,074	

Refer to the Kidney Transplant and Kidney Donation Change Package at www.etclc.org for more information on initiatives and action items to drive change in your organization.
Source: SRTR July 31, 2023. All counts and rates are based on a 12-month lookback ending in last month of available data.
Projections, based on predictions from LOESS regression models, are compared to targets to determine status by the end of August 2023.

Here is where your participation is critical:

Your support of team members participating in quality improvement efforts is critical. **The End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative (ETCLC)** kidney community partners will continue to collaborate during national Pacing Events and Case Studies. They share best practices, proven processes, and steps to shift cultures. Expanded Quality Improvement Teams meet monthly to discuss high-performing organizations and promote the increased use of SRTR data to highlight surgical practice patterns and acceptance patterns. Embracing and adopting these practices in your organization will drive change in transplantation.

Here are actions you can lead and support:

- Establish monthly or quarterly waitlist management processes that engage patients. (TxC)
- Use UNOS Organ Offer Filters, based on acceptance criteria, local practice, and historical data review. (TxC)
- Educate patients proactively, including the option to accept a “Better Than Dialysis” kidney, to ensure transplant readiness. (TxC)
- Expand and use interdisciplinary councils. (DH)
- Acceptance Rate Performance
- Conduct near real-time, after-action reviews of turned-down kidneys to assess if process changes are needed to accept these organs in the future. (OPO, DH, TxC)
- Use accurately interpreted biopsies to rule in acceptance and decrease cold ischemic time (CIT). (OPO, TxC)
- Expand and build collaborative relationships with transplant centers, donor hospitals, and organ procurement organizations. (OPO, DH, TxC)

Finally, ETCLC will begin sending Transplant Centers Reports quarterly to transplant center leadership; the first reports were emailed in December 2022. You and your transplant team can use these reports to set quality goals and targets, identify opportunities for improvement, and track progress to increase capacity.

On behalf of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Division of Kidney Health; Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), Division of Transplant; and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Innovations (CMMI), thank you for sharing your expertise and for leading teams to improve kidney transplantation.

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