



The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation and Transplant Initiative



FEBRUARY 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Looking ahead to April 2023, we will expand the collaborative experience by partnering transplant QI Teams and donor QI Teams monthly to larger groups. We will also reduce the number of ETCLC case study calls each month from two to one. Additionally, we will begin to narrow the scope of initiatives being reported by organizations.

ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative

The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation & Transplant Initiative

and their Teams, since April of 2022, we have witnessed a clear convergence of activities and initiatives with members identifying and working on the most effective activities to drive the National Aims: increase kidney transplants, reduce unused organs and improve utilization of high-KDPI kidneys throughout the country.

While the collaborative offers autonomy to the QI Coach(es)

Following discussion with the QI Coaches, the National Faculty and evaluation of the data reported in the Progress Tracker by collaborative members, we have begun to narrow the promising practices for Donor Hospitals, just as we did for Transplant Centers in October. Similar to the “Top 11” Aim 2 Focused Effort, TAQIL will release the top activities identified by participating Donor Hospitals, as well as, a listing of the OPO promising practices from our first year in our March 2023 Change Package Revision.

Please join your QI Team call in March for more information and thank you for your commitment to the collaborative and each other!
Reminder: Report on your organization level initiatives in the Progress Tracker by the 10th.

ETCLC NATIONAL AIMS | 2022 - 2023

The ETCLC identifies highly effective practices currently in use to spread throughout the organ donation and recovery, kidney care, and kidney transplant community to achieve the following three Aims (effective August 2022):

National Aims	Aim	OPYR 1 Target	Actual	Status
<p>Through 11/30/2022</p>	Aim #1 Increase Deceased Kidney Transplants	21,232	21,062	
	Aim #2a – Decrease Discard Rate KDPI <60	8.2%	9.4%	
	Aim #2b – Decreased Discard Rate KDPI >=60	40.0%	48.0%	
	Aim #3 – Increase % of 60-85 KDPI Recovered for Transplant	12,074	12,966	

Within 1% of reaching the Aim 1 target!

Note: Projected values are annualized amounts based on data received to date.

ETCLC Patient & Donor Family Representative (PFR) Spotlight

The PFR group met in January to discuss the most effective transplant education resources available in the community. They have been sending their recommendations to the TAQIL Team and will meet again in March to review these education tools, identify gaps, and create an official ETCLC listing this Spring. Thank you to our volunteer PFRs for sharing their experience and guiding this work.

QI Teams who need support including the PFR lived experience into their Pacing Events can email TAQILinfo@hsag.com.

Barriers & Successes from Our 25 Quality Improvement Teams

In February, QI Teams continued to work together to promote meaningful improvement of their procurement, donation, and transplant processes. The following figure provides an overview of collaborative initiatives in action:

Challenge	Solution
Honoring First Person Authorization (FPA) and family approach timing	➔ A team discussed the use of VOALTE, a secure medical communication app, to improve communication between ICU physicians and the OPO and to support the families in the process.
Organ Offer Filter hesitancy “What if we miss the right organ for one of our patients?”	➔ Refer to the new Organ Acceptance Rate (OAR) metric that can provide meaningful incentive to organizations that are hesitant to implement offer filters.
Inconsistent Decision-Making and Acceptance Practices	➔ In addition to education, a collaborative member created a script for coordinators regarding COVID+ donors. They also analyze comparative data, organ acceptance data, and turn downs. So far, they have done 7 transplants with COVID+ donors, both symptomatic and asymptomatic organs.
Greater attention to Waitlist Management practices	➔ Monthly waitlist work sessions are done with the pre-coordinator team, nephrology team, and surgeons. The Transplant Center developed a “hot list” of patients with defined listing criteria and instituted a DGF clinic to manage patients. The dedicated clinic also helps with dialysis coordination, which has shown a significant shift to increase the number of active patients on their waitlist.
More Timely Referrals due to improved processes	➔ The new initiative involves daily, in-person, contact outside of the previous 10am-10pm calls. They are hopeful this will allow for more timely discussions and for the team to be ready when the patient is pronounced brain dead. These timely discussions have already allowed for greater success in converting unregistered donors.

A very special thank you to **QI Teams T10W, D14E, D17E and T11** for their presentations during our February Case Study and Pacing Event sessions. Sharing of current activities provide valuable resources and generate new idea among collaborative colleagues.

Recordings of all events are available on the KSP.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH | *The Voices of ETCLC*

“Strategies learned during the Pacing Events have really helped me in my role.”
~ QI Team Member

“The clock is ticking for me, and I don’t have time to wait.”
~ Transplant Center, on streamlining their evaluation process to fast-track patients that backlogged on appointments for colonoscopy and cardiac clearance.

What do you want to see more of in this monthly resource?
Email your feedback to us at TAQILInfo@hsaq.com with your suggestions.

CALENDAR OF ETCLC & LCC EVENTS

The Alliance: National Critical Issues Forum focused on Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP). March 21st – Philadelphia, PA
The Annual Assembly of Hospice and Palliative Care. March 22-25 – Montreal, Canada
 National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists (NANT DTX40) - DialysisTechConnexion40. March 28-31 – Las Vegas, NV
National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Spring Clinical Meetings (SCM23). April 11-15 – Austin, TX
2023 ANNA Symposium. May 7-10 – Palm Springs, CA
 The Alliance: National Pediatric Donation and Transplantation Summit. May 24-25 – Houston, TX
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO). June 12-15 – Orlando, FL
NATCO. The Organization for Donation and Transplant Professionals. August 7-10 – Orlando, FL
 The Alliance: National Critical issues Forum focused on Logistics and Reducing Organ Loss. September 13th – Kansas City, MO

Events and presenters are subject to change without notice. [Click Here](#) to log into the KSP for real time updates.

Day/Date	Time (ET)	Event Type	Audience/Estate
Wed, March 8 th	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Case Study D16E	All Members Welcome
<i>Fri, March 10th</i>	<i>Monthly PR</i>	<i>Progress Reporting Due via Progress Tracker plus 2nd Month of Aim 2 Focused Effort Reporting</i>	<i>Progress Reporters</i>
Wed, March 15 th	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event D19C	All Members Welcome
Wed, March 22 nd	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Case Study T13W	All Members Welcome
Wed, March 29 th	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event T04E	All Members Welcome
Wed, April 5 th	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Case Study D18E	All Members Welcome
<i>Mon, April 10th</i>	<i>Monthly PR</i>	<i>Progress Reporting Due via Progress Tracker plus 2nd Month of Aim 2 Focused Effort Reporting</i>	<i>Progress Reporters</i>
Wed, April 12 th	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event T01E	All Members Welcome

Spotlight on the ETCLC LCC

Meeting quarterly with the TAQIL Team, Leadership Coordinating Council (LCC) partner organizations, discuss opportunities to work together across organizations to increase information sharing in the community and reduce duplication. During the February 9th session, each member shared updates on their current initiatives and priorities, including dialysis patient barriers to transplant, identifying the levers that affect change, and upcoming events. LCC members expressed the interest and wanting to know more specific examples of what is working in the ETCLC so they can share with their own members. They would like more information on what best practices have surfaced, what is working and identified new ways to work together in the next year. We are grateful for the LCCs commitment to the ETCLC and each other. We look forward to expanding our relationships throughout 2023.

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)
 American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP)
 American Kidney Fund (AKF)
 Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplant (AMAT)
 American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA)
 Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO)
 American Society of Nephrology (ASN)
 American Society of Transplantation (AST)
 American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS)
 College of American Pathologists (CAP)
 Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC)
 The Forum of ESRD Networks & Executive Directors

Kidney Care Partners (KCP)
 Kidney Transplant Collaborative
 National Associations of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists (NANT)
 North American Transplant Coordinators Organization (NATCO)
 Northwest Kidney Centers
 National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO)
 National Kidney Foundation (NKF)
 Organ Donation and Transplant Alliance (The Alliance)
 Renal Healthcare Association (RHA)
 Renal Physicians Association (RPA)
 Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM)
 Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO)
 United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS)

COMING IN OUR MARCH EDITION
Spotlight on our next phase: Elevating ETCLC in 2023

Everything ETCLC

Quick Reference



New to ETCLC? Here are some FAQs – For more information, visit [etclc.org](https://www.etclc.org)

Who is involved in the ETCLC? During the Fall of 2021, the ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative enrolled more than 80% of US transplant centers, 90% of Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs), plus the donor hospitals in each OPO's donor service area. Together, these groups represent more than 400 organizations, working in 25 separate Quality Improvement (QI) Donation and Transplant Teams, including one Pediatric Team. Professional organizations and patient advocacy groups are organized into the Leadership Coordinating Council (LCC), while the National Faculty provides oversight on the work to enhance the ETCLC Kidney Donation and Kidney Utilization Change Packages.

What is the difference between an ETCLC Case Study and a Pacing Event? Pacing Events offer a Best Practice, Process, or Procedure and are available bi-weekly. A Case Study refers to a specific Clinical Case or Barrier Discussion and is offered twice monthly. (*Learning Sessions are available most Wednesdays throughout the Year and led by QI Teams.*)

Did You Know: Your [Slack](#) account will deactivate if you do not log in regularly.

Please log into [Slack](#) at least **once per month** to stay current with ETCLC discussion taking place in the collaborative.

"In order to comply with CMS policy, any accounts that have not logged into QualityNet Slack and Confluence in the last 180 or more consecutive days will have their QualityNet Slack and Confluence Entitlement removed. Please remember to log in on a regular basis if you would like to retain access to your account."

If your account has been deactivated, please visit <https://harp.cms.gov/login> to re-request the roles QualityNet Slack Entitlement. Instructions for re-requesting: Click the [Slack Confluence space Getting Started](#) tab."

You will only need to reinstate your roles; you will not need to go through the HARP registration process again.

RESOURCES & LINKS

ETCLC PARTICIPANT SITES | **Accessibility is limited to participating ETCLC organizations**

Knowledge Sharing Platform (KSP) | Available to one representative per participating organization to access QI Team resources, calendar events, and recordings & materials from all Pacing Events & Case Studies (requires a [HARP](#) account).

ETCLC Dashboard | Provides monthly progress updates on the Three Aims (requires a [HARP](#) account).

Slack | This peer-to-peer, searchable platform, offers a collaborative space to discuss special topics when members want to communicate; available 24/7/365 (requires [HARP](#) access, open to all participants). Submit your request to [join Slack here](#). QI Teams are engaging in exciting dialogue around topics such as increasing utilization and decreasing discard rates. There is also a great opportunity to ask questions of patient and donor family representatives. Request a Slack account – open to all ETCLC participants – to join the conversation, collaborate with peers, and ask questions of the community on [Slack](#)!

Do you have questions about a HARP ID, the KSP, or Slack? Email us for assistance today at TAQILInfo@hsag.com.

**Thank you to our volunteer Members, Coaches, National Faculty, LCC,
and ESRD Networks for your leadership & support.**

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