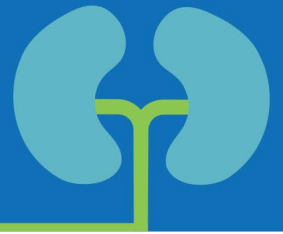


# Everything ETCLC

8<sup>th</sup> Edition | Latest News and Takeaways | March 2023



## The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation and Transplant Initiative



### MARCH 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

As the community prepares for the national spotlight of *Donate Life Month*, QI Coaches and Co-Coaches are working together to align and expand their QI Team calls in April. These larger donor and transplant-focused QI Teams will merge to expand the depth of knowledge of each combined team to spread promising practices, begin to narrow the scope of initiatives, and continue to work toward national initiatives in the coming



### ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation & Transplant Initiative

months. The collaborative began a year ago with a broad request for reporting on Change Package and quality improvement initiatives. This yielded more than 370 individual projects in the first year of the collaborative. These topics converged into a dozen core areas which will guide the work of collaborative over the next year.

We applaud the incredible efforts taking place within each organization to improve transplant and donation and we thank all those participants that report on the progress of their initiatives. During this time, a clear convergence of efforts in less than a dozen core areas have been identified and will now guide the collaborative over the next year. Finally, the updated release to the Change Packages will be available to the community in late-April. The revisions to the Change Packages includes insights and experiences from the first year of the collaborative; it will be the first in a series of annual updates since their original release in March 2020.

To further the collaborative efforts, please join the newly combined QI Team calls in April, bring a new member of your organization or reach out to another Team member that hasn't been able to attend lately, and please report on the work of your initiatives by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month via the Progress Tracker. Thank you for your commitment to the collaborative and to each other!

## CELEBRATING COLLABORATIVE SUCCESS | MARCH 2023 | The First 28

Join ETCLC in celebrating the work from these 18 organizations! Their initiatives are the first 28 initiatives reported as "Complete" in the Progress Tracker in the past few months. Be on the lookout for more information about these successful initiatives in the coming months!

AU Medical Center, Inc. (T03E)

Center for Organ Recovery and Education (T04E)

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters (P25A)

Colorado Donor Alliance (D21C) (T11C)

Eskenazi Health Center (D17E)

Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital (T11C)

Gift of Life Donor Program (T05E)

Hartford Hospital (T01E)

Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (D18E)

LifeBanc (D16E) (T02E)

LifeGift Organ Donation Center (D21C) (T09C)

Lifesharing - A Donate Life Organization (D23W)

New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network (D15E)

Strong Memorial Hospital; University of Rochester Medical Center (T03E)

Summa Health-Akron Campus (D16E)

Tampa General Hospital (T03E)

Unity Point Health-Iowa Methodist Medical Center (T10C)

Upstate New York Transplant Services (D14E)

The forthcoming additional details will include insight into methods, staff involvement, costs, data collection and the type of resources that might be necessary to replicate these efforts. We will also surface effective practices for integrating sustainable initiatives into organizations. Once these details are confirmed, additional organizations will be able to implement these model initiatives in order to achieve their own success in driving change and meeting the three National Aims.

## 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:

National Aims	Aim	Current	Projected	Target	Status
 Through 12/31/2022	Aim #1 – Increase Deceased Kidney Transplants	20,765	22,358	21,232	👍
	Aim #2a – Decrease Discard Rate KDPI <60	8.9%	7.8%	8.2%	👍
	Aim #2b – Decreased Discard Rate KDPI >=60	48.4%	50.4%	40.0%	🛑
	Aim #3 – Increase % of >=60 KDPI recovered for Transplant	12,706	14,903	12,074	👍

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.

## ETCLC Patient & Donor Family Representative (PFR) Spotlight

The PFR group met in March to discuss "What I Wish I Would Have Known." Patient and Donor Family perspectives vary from starting or restarting dialysis, experiencing the transplant process from referral to post-op, and those that made the decision to donate their loved one's gift to save another on the most difficult days of their lives. These lived experiences remind all of us why we are part of the transplant and donation community. Their feedback is being compiled to share in the ETCLC and help guide our efforts to better prepare the families and patients we serve during challenging life transitions. Thank you to our volunteer PFRs for sharing their experience and keeping us centered on this work. QI Teams who need support including PFRs into their pacing events or QI Team meetings can email [TAQLInfo@hsaq.com](mailto:TAQLInfo@hsaq.com).

## Insights from our 25 Quality Improvement Teams

This month, conversations in the community touched on emergence of shifts in mindset, specifically our language and terminology.

Current Terminology	Consider This Instead
Triggers	Soft Cues
Withdraw Care	Goals of Care or Expanding Care for the Possibility of Donation
Marginal Kidney	Better Than Dialysis or Less Than Perfect

Discards	Unused or Non transplanted Kidneys
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Additionally, the following figure provides insights into some of the hot topics and emerging themes from collaborative discussions during the monthly QI Team calls:

Challenge	Solution
Shift in Mindset	Multiple organizations mentioned that the ETCLC has led them to be more aggressive in organ procurement and change their perspective regarding the utility of a less-than-ideal / better than dialysis (BTD) kidney. The new thinking is that BTD kidney's "might change a person's life for a few years" and get them off dialysis.
Patient Accountability in Transplant Process	Several organizations discussed the patient's degree of agency in the listing process. To support patients in their decision making, organizations are conducting initiatives to help promote testing readiness, regular communication between patients and the transplant program, increasing education, and generally more self-efficacy among patients in need of transplant.
Progress Tracker Utilization	Building off the Progress Tracker demonstrations during QI Team meetings in February, teams are discussing how the Progress Tracker facilitates collaboration. One individual shared that, prior to attending a recent in-person conference, he references the Progress Tracker to learn about the initiatives that other ETCLC participants are working on. He finds this helps facilitate productive discussion during QI Team calls as well.
Access to Outside Records	In multiple instances, organizations report inadequacies in access to patient medical records to verify testing conducted outside of their organization. This problem contributes to duplicative efforts and inefficiency in the listing process.
Use of Data Reporting Tools	Multiple organizations report gaining value from the RUM Report to assist with decision-making regarding procurement and utilization. OPOs indicate that sharing the OUT Report with transplant centers can help them understand their usage patterns.
Nuances of the Pediatric Experience	The pediatric team faces unique challenges and opportunities. While pediatric organizations discussed their difficulties facilitating the transition to the adult waitlist for their adolescent patients, one organization reported success in holding a clinic that promoted vaccinations for those needing to be or remain waitlisted.
Pumping	Organizations are reporting increased utilization of pumping, and transplant centers generally indicate that all else being equal, a pumped organ is preferable. However, organizations are still working out the details around the interpretation of pump numbers, transportation, and the return of physical pumps.

Thank you to our March **QI Teams** for their presentations during our Case Study and Pacing Event sessions. Sharing your knowledge and expertise supports the spread of the entire collaborative. **D16E-The Life Team** "The Case for Timing: How Do We Get It Right?"; **T12W** "Using Kaizen and Examining OPO Logistics to Improve Utilization of Hard-to-Place Kidneys"; **D19C** "OPO and Donor Hospital Collaboration to Overcome FPA Opposition and Using Lean to Standardize Rounding and Referrals"; **T13W** "The Case for Strategic Relationship Management and Using Dashboards to Monitor Kidney Utilization" and **T04E** "Managing the Transplant Waitlist – The Northwell Health Experience". Recordings of all events are available on the KSP.

What do you want to see more of in this monthly resource?  
 Email your feedback to us at [TAQILInfo@hsag.com](mailto:TAQILInfo@hsag.com) with your suggestions.

### CALENDAR OF ETCLC & LCC EVENTS

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 13<sup>th</sup> – Kansas City, MO

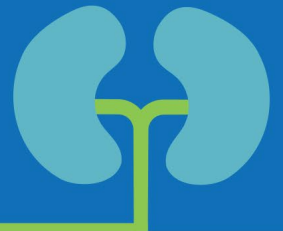
Events and presenters are subject to change without notice. [Click Here](#) to log into the KSP for real time updates.

Day/Date	Time (ET)	Event Type	Audience/Estate
Wed, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Case Study   D18E	All Members Welcome
Mon, April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly PR	Progress Reporting Due via Progress Tracker plus 2 <sup>nd</sup> Month of Aim 2 Focused Effort Reporting	Progress Reporters
Wed, April 12 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event   T01E	All Members Welcome
Wed, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event   P25A	All Members Welcome
Wed, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Case Study   T03E	All Members Welcome
Wed, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event   D21C	All Members Welcome
Wed, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly PR	Progress Reporting Due via Progress Tracker plus 2 <sup>nd</sup> Month of Aim 2 Focused Effort Reporting	Progress Reporters
Wed, May 24 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event   T06E	All Members Welcome

### Spotlight on the ETCLC Community

**National Pediatric Transplant Week**. April 23-29, 2023. takes place the last full week of National Donate Life Month in April. It focuses on the powerful message of ending the pediatric transplant waiting list. Throughout Pediatric Transplant Week, clinical partners share patient stories (candidates and recipients); donor families whose children have saved and healed lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation are honored; and recipient families share their thanks and milestone celebrations.





## The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation and Transplant Initiative



[AOPO's 50K Report](https://www.aopo.org/50k-report) demonstrating significant progress towards our goal of achieving 50,000 organ transplants in 2026. This goal was set in February 2021 with the aims of expanding collaboration among stakeholders, creating a more equitable system, maximizing organ utilization, and driving innovation and research.

On the AOPO website under the 'Advocacy' tab we showcase the ETCLC and the work being done to [increase kidney utilization](#). Just another way AOPO is supporting the incredible work OPOs, transplant centers, and donor hospitals are doing to improve the quality and outcomes of kidney donation and transplantation.

COMING IN OUR APRIL EDITION  
**Continuing the Spotlight on our Pivots in the ETCLC**  
and

**Share your celebrations from Donate Life Month**  
Send your photos to [tdinkel@hsag.com](mailto:tdinkel@hsag.com) or [TAQILInfo@hsag.com](mailto:TAQILInfo@hsag.com)



Source: [https://donatelife.net/wp-content/uploads/NDLM-2023\\_SpiritWeek\\_Calendar\\_Month.pdf](https://donatelife.net/wp-content/uploads/NDLM-2023_SpiritWeek_Calendar_Month.pdf)

More resources available at: <https://donatelife.net/how-you-can-help/national-observances-celebrations/ndlm/>

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

This material was prepared by Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), a Technical Assistance, Quality Improvement and Learning Contractor under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. FL-TAQIL-TQ2EFP-03032023-01

