



## The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation and Transplant Initiative



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

Bringing your coordinator, surgeon, or key team member on the monthly topic will inject new perspective, add knowledge to the QI Team, and help drive robust discussion. Adding colleagues to the call saves time in relaying information and provides peer-to-peer exchange of ideas on best practices to those in the role. In turn, participating organizations drive change and further the impact to increase kidney transplants, reduce unused kidneys and improve utilization of high-KDPI kidneys throughout the collaborative. We encourage ETCLC members to expand their reach by bringing a new member of their organization to QI Team meetings or ETCLC events.

### MAY 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

The ETCLC QI Teams continue to meet in their merged groups. Donor and Transplant Teams have a variety of specific topics to discuss during their monthly collaboration.

Starting in June, the TAQIL team will preemptively share prompting questions to center the monthly QI Team discussions. We request that all participating organizations review the monthly topic and invite the relevant subject matter expert within their organization to the meeting.



Join the new  
[ETCLC Page on LinkedIn](#)

**ETCLC CALL TO ACTION:** In June, Transplant Center Reports will be emailed to each program with a letter of support from CMS, HRSA & CMMI. The first reports were emailed to all Transplant Centers in December.

**Reminder:** Please continue to 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!

### VOICES OF THE ETCLC | MAY

*"It is hard to lose a patient. We work to rewrite the narrative, to make donation a beautiful thing"*

~ A Donor Hospital Team's Perspective

*"When we chose to donate; our care team stopped caring for just one and started caring for five."*

~ A Donor family sharing their story

### ETCLC NATIONAL AIMS 2022 - 2023

The ETCLC identifies highly effective practices currently in use to spread throughout the organ donation, recovery, kidney care, and kidney transplant community to achieve the bold Aims of the ETCLC.

National Aims	Aim	Current	Projected	Target	Status
 Through 02/28/2023	<b>Aim #1. Increase Deceased Kidney Transplants</b>	21,040	22,253	21,232	
	<b>Aim #2a. Decrease Discard Rate KDPI &lt;60</b>	8.8%	8.7%	8.2%	
	<b>Aim #2b. Decrease Discard Rate KDPI &gt;=60</b>	48.8%	50.0%	40.0%	
	<b>Aim #3. Increase % of &gt;=60 KDPI recovered for Transplant</b>	13,051	14,515	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)

The next PFR call is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 4pm ET. The group will discuss an upcoming pacing event on donor family experience, provide feedback on their participation during QI Team calls and review draft educational materials on *Better Than Dialysis* Kidneys.

We are grateful for your passion and commitment to sharing your experiences, helping others understand the power and gift of donation, and for keeping patients and families at the center of our collaborative work.



ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative (ETCLC)

THE CHANGE PACKAGES:  
Kidney Donation & Kidney Transplant

March 31, 2023 | Insights and Experiences  
March 31, 2020 | Original Release

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

### In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)

The 2023 Insights & Experiences Change Packages are now available at [etclc.org](http://etclc.org) and the [ETCLC LinkedIn Page](#).

### We want your photos!

Did you attend a local or national meeting, meet other members of the collaborative recently, or want to share a photo of your team in action?

Send your photos to [TAQILInfo@hsag.com](mailto:TAQILInfo@hsag.com).

Join the new  
[ETCLC Page on LinkedIn](#)

## Insights from our Quality Improvement Teams

### Promising Practices in Action:

With the newly combined team structure beginning in April, there are additional opportunities for increased idea-sharing and learning. This month we like to celebrate a few of the exciting and effective ways ETCLC participants are working towards achieving the collaborative's bold aims!

<b>Friday Lecture</b>	Saint Barnabas Medical Center shared their organization's effective practice for staff education. Their <i>Friday Lecture</i> , a "lunch and learn" style forum, allows for frequent and consistent education across the organization. Their example facilitated change in attitudes and ultimately improved patient outcomes. <i>Years ago, a poor patient outcome from an en-bloc kidney transplant led to surgeon trepidation in pursuing these organs. However, effective education efforts over time helped the team learn how to achieve good outcomes in this type of procedure, and it is now hardwired into their process.</i>
<b>Dialysis Center and Transplant Center Relationships</b>	University of Louisville-Jewish Health has had success developing relationships between their transplant center and regional dialysis center. This has entailed personal interactions as well as revised protocol for communication ( <i>faxing comprehensive patient information to the dialysis center</i> ), and shared understanding of criteria for being waitlisted to avoid unnecessary patient workups.
<b>Biopsy Images</b>	We Are Sharing Hope shared a recent development in the role of a biopsy in transplant decision-making. They've shared that in many cases, transplant hospitals the work with are most concerned with receiving a high-quality image of the organ for surgeon review, and that a biopsy read is secondary to that image.
<b>Allocation Efficiencies</b>	On many teams, OPOs expressed appreciation for the transplant center practice of identifying several potential recipients for an organ, in response to a kidney offer. This practice communicates interest in the organ to the OPO and ultimately speeds up allocation.

Thank you to our **QI Teams** for their recent presentations during our Case Study and Pacing Event sessions. Sharing your knowledge and expertise supports the spread of the entire collaborative. **D19 & D20** "Increasing Kidney Donation by Partnering with your OPO" and **T06** "Navigating Change." Recordings of all events are available on the KSP.

## CALENDAR OF ETCLC & LCC EVENTS

*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, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Case Study   T03E	All Members Welcome
Wed, June 7 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event   D23E	All Members Welcome
Fri, June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly PR	Progress Reporting Due via Progress Tracker	Progress Reporters
Wed, June 21 <sup>st</sup>	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pacing Event   T11C	All Members Welcome
Wed, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Case Study   D14E	All Members Welcome
Wednesday, July 26 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 2:30 pm	SAVE THE DATE: End of Year 2 ETCLC LAN	All Members Welcome

American Transplant Congress. June 3-7 – San Diego, CA

Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPQ). June 12-15 – Orlando, FL

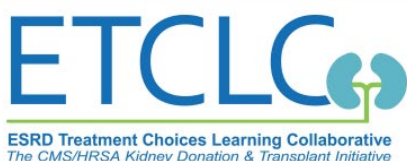
**August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month & August 1-8<sup>th</sup> is National Multiethnic Donor Awareness Week**

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

***Please continue to share your celebrations and organizations in action!***  
***Send your photos to [tdinkel@hsag.com](mailto:tdinkel@hsag.com) or [TAQILInfo@hsag.com](mailto:TAQILInfo@hsag.com)***

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



**Contact the TAQIL Team**  
 Technical Assistance, Quality Improvement, and Learning (TAQIL)  
 Email: [TAQILInfo@hsag.com](mailto:TAQILInfo@hsag.com) | Web: [www.ETCLC.org](http://www.ETCLC.org)