

Technical Assistance, Quality Improvement and Learning Contractor (TAQIL)

ETCLC December Pacing Event Series

Thursday, December 30, 2021 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. EST

Welcome and TAQIL Team Introductions

The Technical Assistance, Quality Improvement and Learning Contractor (TAQIL) quality improvement director, Stephanie Hull, opens the call and welcomes meeting participants. Stephanie then turns the meeting over to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) representative, Melissa Murphy, for her introduction and welcome. Melissa thanks the meeting participants for attending the meeting and supporting the End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative (ETCLC).

Thank you for making space in your calendars to join us today. We are excited that you have made the commitment to be involved in the collaborative. Each one of you serve an integral and important role in our ability to transform the lives of those waiting for a kidney transplant. To grow and successfully scale this important work, we will need everyone's consistent and ongoing dedication towards achieving the bold AIMs of the collaborative.

Today's call is designed to tell you more about what pacing events are and their meaning to the collaborative workflow. The TAQIL Team will share insights as to how we will approach our work, discuss AIM 3, and provide several research articles related to High KDPI kidneys. I look forward to hearing from everyone today.

The TAQIL executive director, Sara Eve Schaeffer, continues with the presentation and provides a brief overview of the agenda and meeting objectives

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & TAQIL Team Introductions
- ETCLC Participants
- QI Team Overview
- Review of Pacing Events
 - Sharing Our Successes
- Collaborative Culture & Net Forward Energy
- Review of the ETCLC AIMs
 - Focus on AIM 2
- What's Next
- Additional Resources
- Closing Thoughts

Welcome

The TAQIL National Faculty Liaison, Julie Moss, provides a more detailed overview of the ETCLC collaborative. The ETCLC provides the greatest opportunity for the kidney community to impact the lives of people waiting for the lifesaving gift of kidney transplant. Collaboration is the key for delivering better services and improving our collective performance. The TAQIL team looks forward to the diverse systems and relationships that will contribute to learning new skills, gaining relevant insights, and tacit knowledge that can break away from established paradigms.

ETCLC Participants

The TAQIL team has met the ETCLC recruitment goals that CMS set for the contract. Sara Eve displays the ETCLC website where participants can go and view the members of the ETCLC and learn more information

about the National AIMS and project goals.

- The link to the website is:
<https://qnetconfluence.cms.gov/display/ETCLC/End+Stage+Renal+Disease+Treatment+Choices+Learning+Collaborative>

Quality Improvement (QI) Team Overview

Sara Eve provides a brief overview of the QI team members' role and associated tasks. The role includes:

- Identify and share case studies
- Update the ETC Change Packages on Kidney Utilization and Donation
- Attend Pacing Events
- Participate in Learning and Action Networks
- Use QI strategies and tactics to unlock barriers
- Incorporate Human Centered Design to identify innovative solutions
- Partner with the Leadership Coordinating Council (LCC)
- Call upon National Faculty support and patient and family representatives
- Focus on one AIM, knowing there may be overlap
- There will be 25 QI Teams organized and submitted to CMS by 12/17/2021.

The TAQIL team will share the teams as soon as the information is approved by CMS and finalized.

Polling Question: Are you familiar with, or have you had any experience with, a Pacing Event?

- 49 participants: Yes
- 9 participants: I'm Not sure
- 33 participants: No

Review of Pacing Events

Julie provides an overview of the Pacing Events structure. The Pacing Events will always include professionals from ETCLC participating organizations, and all supporting members, and will focus on being representative of the "Voice of the QI Teams". Additionally, there will be a focus on how to achieve ETCLC results at a QI Team-level using evidence-based, proven practices and coaching to drive improvement. The content will align with the ETCLC needs over each twelve-month project period and feature core topics that lead to achieving the overall AIMS with space held for emerging topics. After each pacing event, the TAQIL team will host a post-Event breakout session and facilitate discussion related to creating solutions to common barriers. The meeting recordings and schedule will be posted on Knowledge Sharing Process (KSP) for reference.

The Pacing Events structure is set up:

- Frame the event to present clear intent to keep the meeting on pace.
- Provide data to give people context to create a common understanding of the situation.
- Offer effective questions focused on generating discussions, insights, and ideas rather than definitive answers.
- Use Requests and Offers to generate specific action to ideas and recommendations.
- Create a Call to Action to support the bold AIMS and create accountability amongst the group.

Sharing Our Successes

The role of the QI Coaches is to help identify transplant centers, OPOs, donor hospitals that exemplify highly effective practices related to the AIMS. Additionally, the QI coaches will nominate engaged, empowered transplant or waitlisted patients and donor families to collaborate with the TAQIL team and ETCLC members. The TAQIL team will then provide a list of transplant centers, OPOs, and donor hospitals in the top quartile of performance in the ETCLC AIMS and submit to CMS quarterly. The TAQIL team will also work with top

performers and QI Coach-identified organizations and individuals to present on upcoming events.

Polling Question: Is your organization ready to identify best practices for kidney transplantation and/or donation?

- 70 participants: Yes
- 10 participants: Probably/Most Likely
- 1 participant: No

Collaborative Culture

Alicia Goroski a TAQIL team QI coach liaison, highlights the different ways the TAQIL team and ETCLC members will engage in discussions in an open forum setting to make progress towards the AIMs. The TAQIL team hopes to create an environment that encourages members to engage in bold goals, accelerates progress and brings everyone along, and features best practice sharing to identify what works and how. The ETCLC collaborative will synthesize ideas to cluster what works, while also converging activities and interests to create replicable and sustainable approaches to innovation that expands the breadth of reach by breaking down silos and developing relationships.

Alicia also introduces Net Forward Energy to the group and discusses the two kinds of energy from different thoughts and statements. The Net Forward Energy that the TAQIL team would like to foster will be action oriented and AIM focused so that the ETCLC will be as successful as possible.

The Bold AIMs that the ETCLC will be using to guide the work include:

- 1) Increase the number of deceased donor kidneys transplanted** by 7% over baseline in the base period and an additional 2% increase in the goal of each option period ending with a total increase of 15% over baseline for the total 5-year period
- 2) Decrease the current national discard rate of all procured kidneys** from 20% to 15% for the total 5-year period by spreading highly effective practices of transplant programs and OPOs that are successfully transplanting all available kidneys and regularly engaging patients
- 3) Increase the percentage of change for kidneys recovered for transplant in the 60-85 Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) score group** by 2 percentage points over baseline for the base period and an additional 3 percentage points in the goal over baseline each option period ending with a 14-percentage point increase for the total 5-year period

ETCLC AIM 3 – Foundations

Mark Hawkins, the TAQIL team QI coach liaison, highlights the tasks and goals associated with updating the existing Change Packages that were created by the ESRD National Coordinating Center between December 2019- January 2020, in collaboration with renal professionals across the country. The ETC Change Packages were created using:

- 25 data-driven site visits based on performance to the project goals
- Uncovered practices that could be replicated and spread via two change packages
 - Kidney Utilization Change Package
 - Organ Donation Change Package
- Technical Expert Panel, national expert feedback reviewed and amended documents
- ETC Change Packages are initial drafts for the ETCLC

ETCLC AIM 3 – ETC Change Packages

Sample topics from ETC Change packages

- Robust Leadership: OPO and transplant program executive leadership accept ownership of the program and commit the partnership to benchmark targets for outcomes in kidney donation acceptance, transplantation, and avoidance of discards.

- Right System: OPO and transplant programs follow highly effective practices that ensure efficient kidney acceptance, transplantation of all accepted kidneys, and lowest possible rates of kidney discards.
- Engaged Community: OPO and its transplant programs have every level of the community behind efforts to increase kidney transplantation as a solution to widespread kidney failure.

Alicia discussed the calculation for AIM 3 which can be found on slide 19 in the presentation.

Polling Question: Do you or your team know where to find publicly available data about kidney transplant and donation?

- 71 participants: Yes
- 1 participant: I'm not sure
- 3 participants: No

What's Next

Mark encourages meeting participants to follow the next steps, including signing up for the Knowledge Sharing Process Website, so they can continue to be engaged and collaborate. A single Point of Contact for every organization will have access to the site and registration for the site will take place in December. Additional guidance about how to register will be sent via email.

All meeting ETCLC members are encouraged to visit the Public ETCLC Website:

- Lists the members of the National Faculty and ETCLC LCC
- Click here to visit the site:
<https://qnetconfluence.cms.gov/display/ETCLC/End+Stage+Renal+Disease+Treatment+Choices+Learning+Collaborative>
- Share the site with others on your team and at your organization to promote this important work within the community

What's Next – Events

Sara Eve shares that there are several upcoming events and welcomes all members to attend, as available.

- Pacing Events move to Wednesdays at 1-2 p.m. ET beginning January 2022
 - 1/12/2022 at 1-2 p.m. ET
 - 1/26/2022 at 1-2 p.m. ET
- QI Coach Kick Off Call #2
 - 1/10/2022 at 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
- QI Teams Kick Off Call
 - 1/11/2022 at 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET
- QI Teams Open Office Hours
 - 1/13/2022 at 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

All meeting recordings, minutes, and schedules will be posted on KSP in the future so members can readily access information. Until then, recordings and slide presentations can be found at <https://www.hsag.com/en/etclc/>.

Additional Resources

High KDPI Research

- [Who can tolerate a marginal kidney? Predicting survival after deceased donor kidney transplant by donor-recipient](#)

[combination](#)

- [Functional status-based risk–benefit analyses of high-KDPI kidney transplant versus dialysis](#)

Health Equity

- [Educational Animations to Inform Transplant Candidates About Deceased Donor Kidney Options: An Efficacy Randomized Trial](#)
- [Racial/ethnic disparities in waitlisting for deceased donor kidney transplantation 1 year after implementation of the new national kidney allocation system](#)

Rural Health

- [Regional Disparities in Transplantation With Deceased Donor Kidneys With Kidney Donor Profile Index Less Than 20% Among Candidates With Top 20% Estimated Post Transplant Survival](#)

Request and Offer Session

Alicia and Julie led the Request and Offer session and opened the floor for members to submit requests and offers to the TAQIL team.

Request	Offer/Responses
Attend the 1/11/2022 (3:00PM ET) ETCLC Kick-off Call	
Save the Date: 1/12/2022 and 1/26/2022 (1:00PM ET) for the Leadership Pacing Event Calls	
Look for the notification to sign up for the KSP Website	
Watch the Introduction to Data Exchange video	
Slides and recording for all December Pacing Events will be posted to the temporary hosting location https://www.hsag.com/en/etclc/	
Do we know when teams will be assigned?	Julie: Yes, teams will be shared on the QI Team kick-off call on January 11 at 3pm ET.
Will the Pacing Event content be the same in January?	Julie: No, in January, the Pacing Event calls will begin with ETCLC organizations presenting on the calls. January 12 will be Stonybrook transplant center and January 26 will be Sharp Memorial presenting on donor practices.
How can I find who else from my area organization is registered to TAQIL?	Julie: During the QI Teams call on January 11 we will share the teams and who from your area is on your team. In the meantime, there is a complete list of participating organizations on the ETCLC public website: https://qnetconfluence.cms.gov/display/ETCLC/End+Stage+Renal+Disease+Treatment+Choices+Learning+Collaborative

Request	Offer/Responses
<p>I am not receiving emails and invites to calls. How do I receive this information?</p>	<p>Julie: Each organization provided a point of contact when they joined the ETCLC. We are accepting two additional points of contact (POC) for each organization. If you would like to receive the ETCLC information, please discuss this with your organization POC and email TAQILinfo@hsag.com with your organizations additional POCs.</p>
<p>Can you explain the difference between the January 10 and January 11 kick-off call?</p>	<p>Julie: It sounds like we have a QI Coach on the call with us. Yes, the January 10 call is part 2 of the QI Coach kick-off and is intended only for the QI Coaches. The January 11 meeting is for all members of the ETCLC and will announce the QI team structure.</p>
<p>Are the first-year goals for calendar year 2022?</p>	<p>Julie: Yes, I believe so, but let me check with my colleagues who are also on the call. Mark, yes, because we are kicking off the collaborative at the start of the year, we presume the goals are for the calendar year. Melissa Murphy, I will take this back to my colleagues at CMS to verify.</p>

Closing Thoughts

Before adjourning the meeting, Sara Eve shares the TAQIL team’s contact information and invites participants to reach out with any questions, comments, or additional feedback. Participants may email the TAQIL team at TAQILinfo@hsag.com.

The TAQIL team will remain online in a separate 30-minute post-event breakout session to facilitate discussions related to the information shared on today’s call.