

# **MAC Educational Guidance on Patient Referral to Kidney Transplantation: Action Item for Board Consideration**

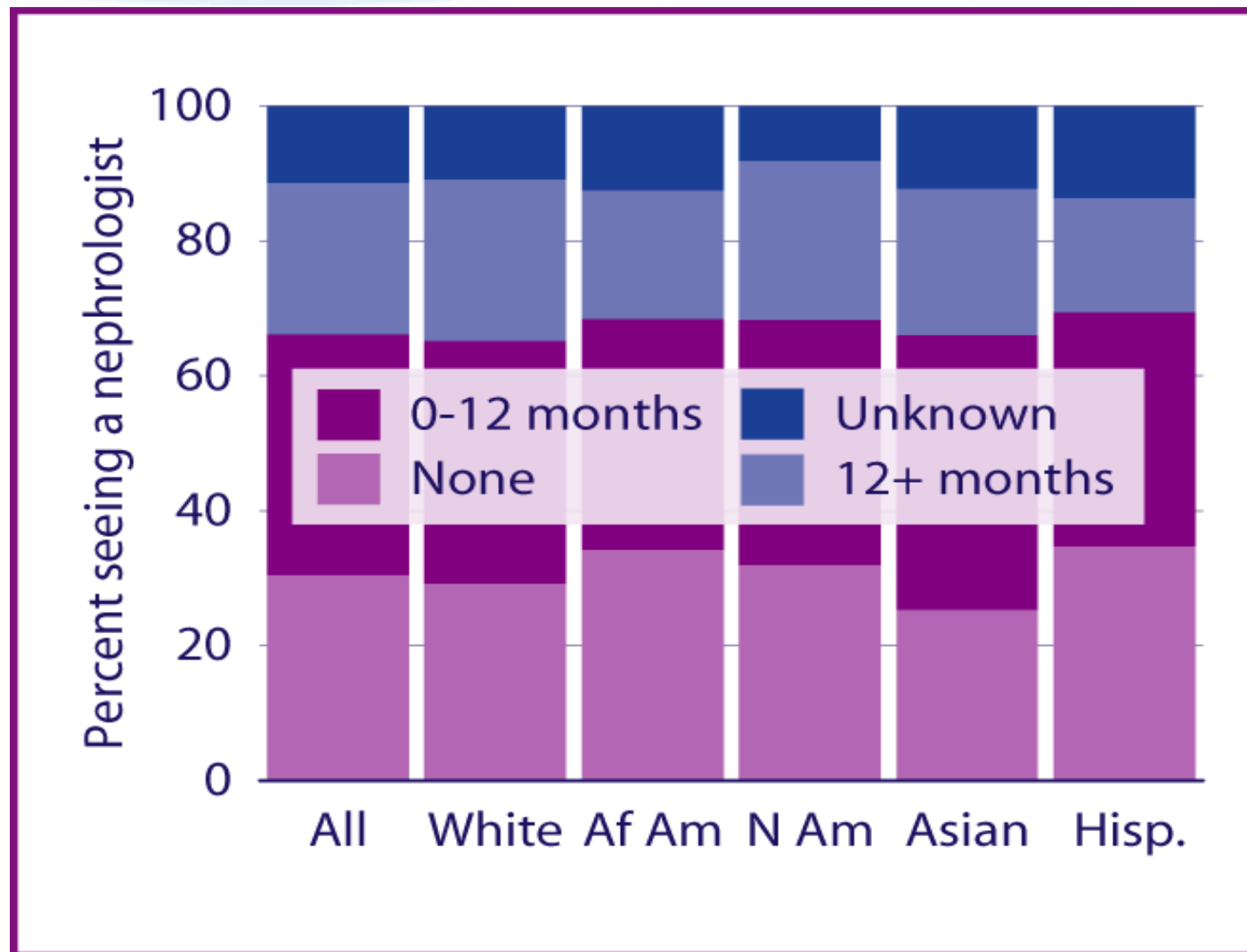
**OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors Meeting  
June 24-25, 2013**

***Meelie S. Debroy, MD  
Vice-Chairman***

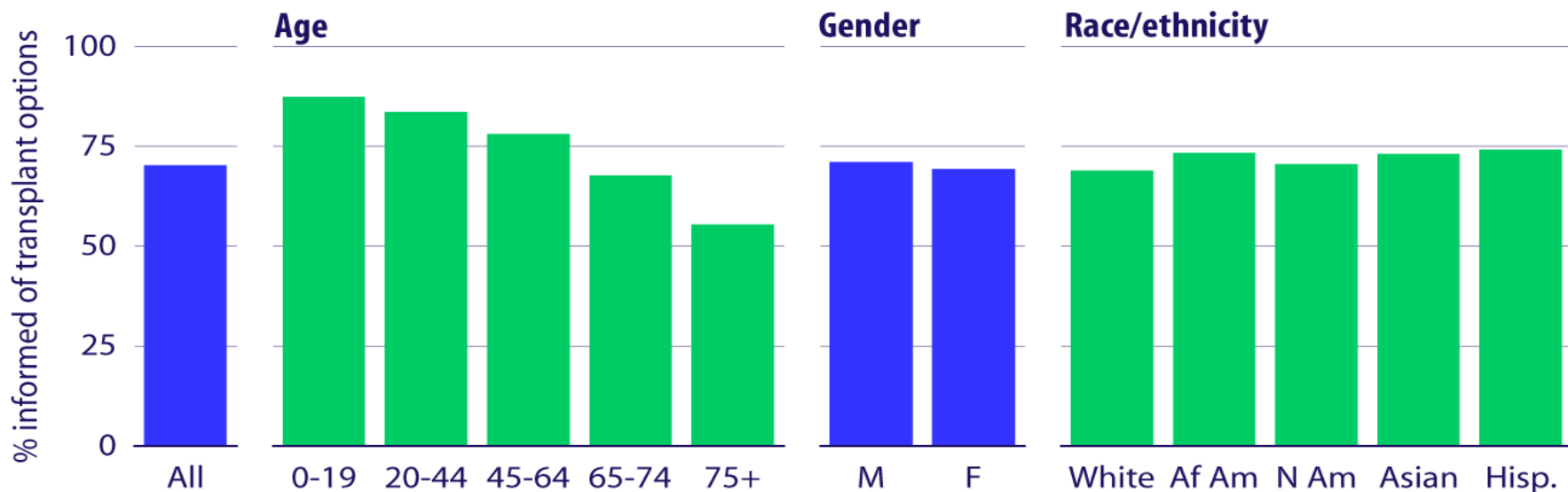
# Problem Statement

- **Minorities experience delays in referral, wait listing, and eventual transplantation as compared to Whites.**
  - **Majority of patients have seen a nephrologist  $\leq$  12 months at time of initiation of dialysis**
  - **Many spend significant time on dialysis prior to referral for kidney transplant evaluation**
  - **Many never informed of transplant options**

# Nephrologist Care Prior to Dialysis Initiation



# Patients Informed of Transplant Options at Initiation of Dialysis



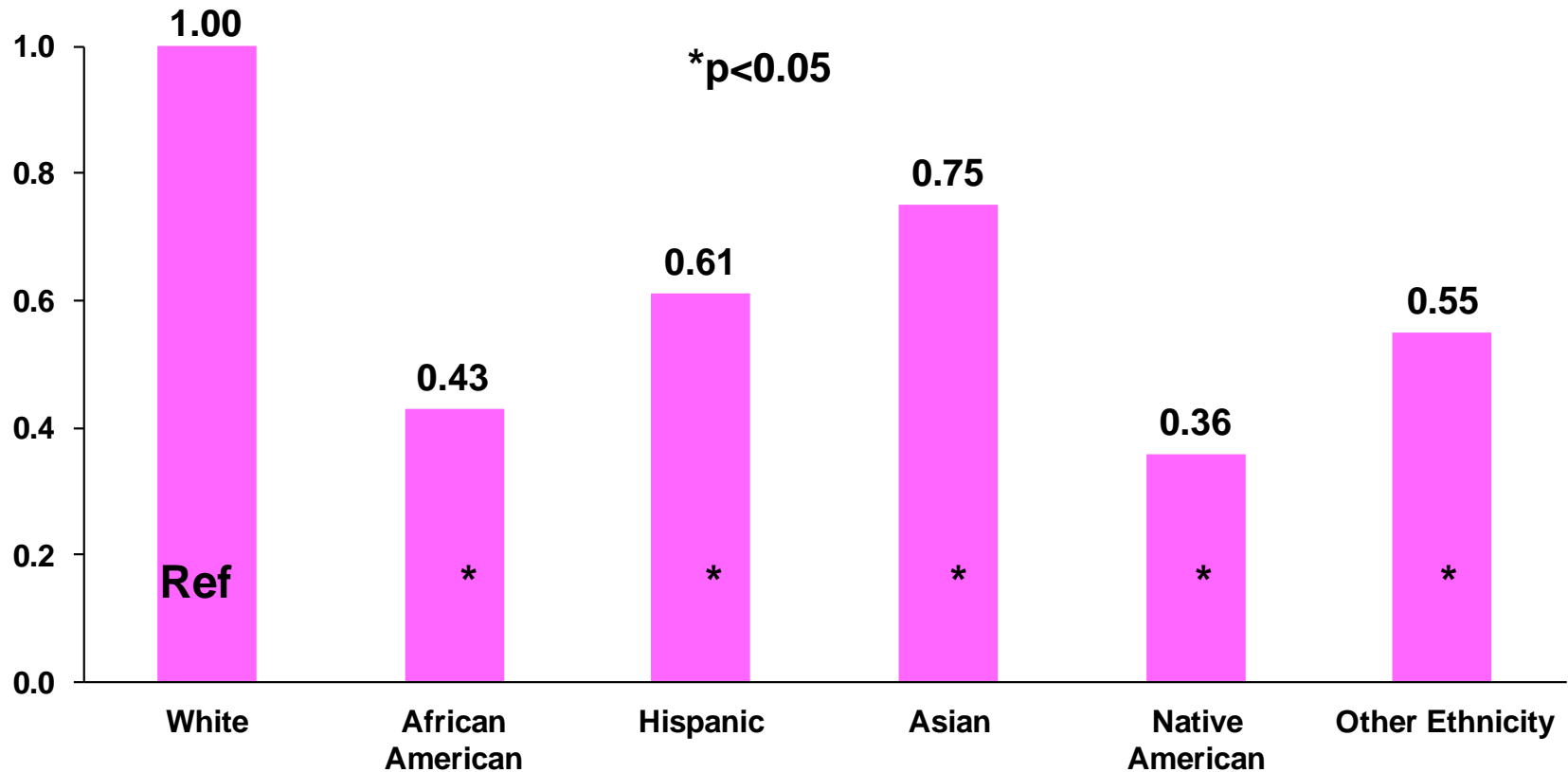
# CMS 2728 Medical Evidence Form

## B. COMPLETE FOR ALL ESRD PATIENTS IN DIALYSIS TREATMENT

20. Name of Dialysis Facility	21. Medicare Provider Number (for item 20)
22. Primary Dialysis Setting <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Dialysis Facility/Center <input type="checkbox"/> SNF/Long Term Care Facility	23. Primary Type of Dialysis <input type="checkbox"/> Hemodialysis (Sessions per week ___/hours per session ___) <input type="checkbox"/> CAPD <input type="checkbox"/> CCPD <input type="checkbox"/> Other
24. Date Regular Chronic Dialysis Began ___/___/___ MM    DD    YYYY	25. Date Patient Started Chronic Dialysis at Current Facility ___/___/___ MM    DD    YYYY
26. Has patient been informed of kidney transplant options? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	27. If patient NOT informed of transplant options, please check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Medically unfit <input type="checkbox"/> Patient declines information <input type="checkbox"/> Unsuitable due to age <input type="checkbox"/> Patient has not been assessed <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologically unfit <input type="checkbox"/> Other

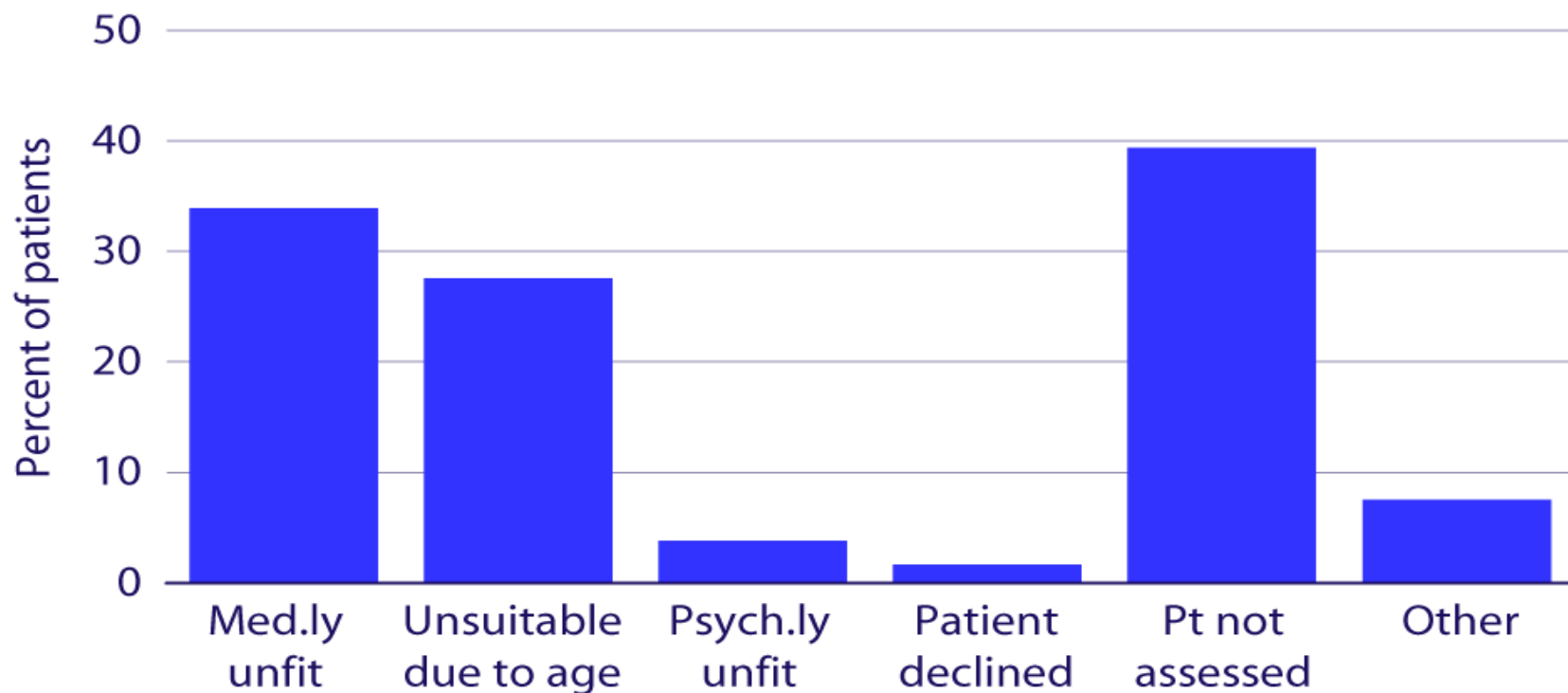
FORM CMS-2728-U3 (06/04) EF(03/2005)

# Adjusted Odds Ratio<sup>†</sup> of New ESRD Patients Being Placed on the Kidney Transplant Waitlist or Receiving a Living Donor Kidney Transplant by Ethnicity, Jul-Dec 2005

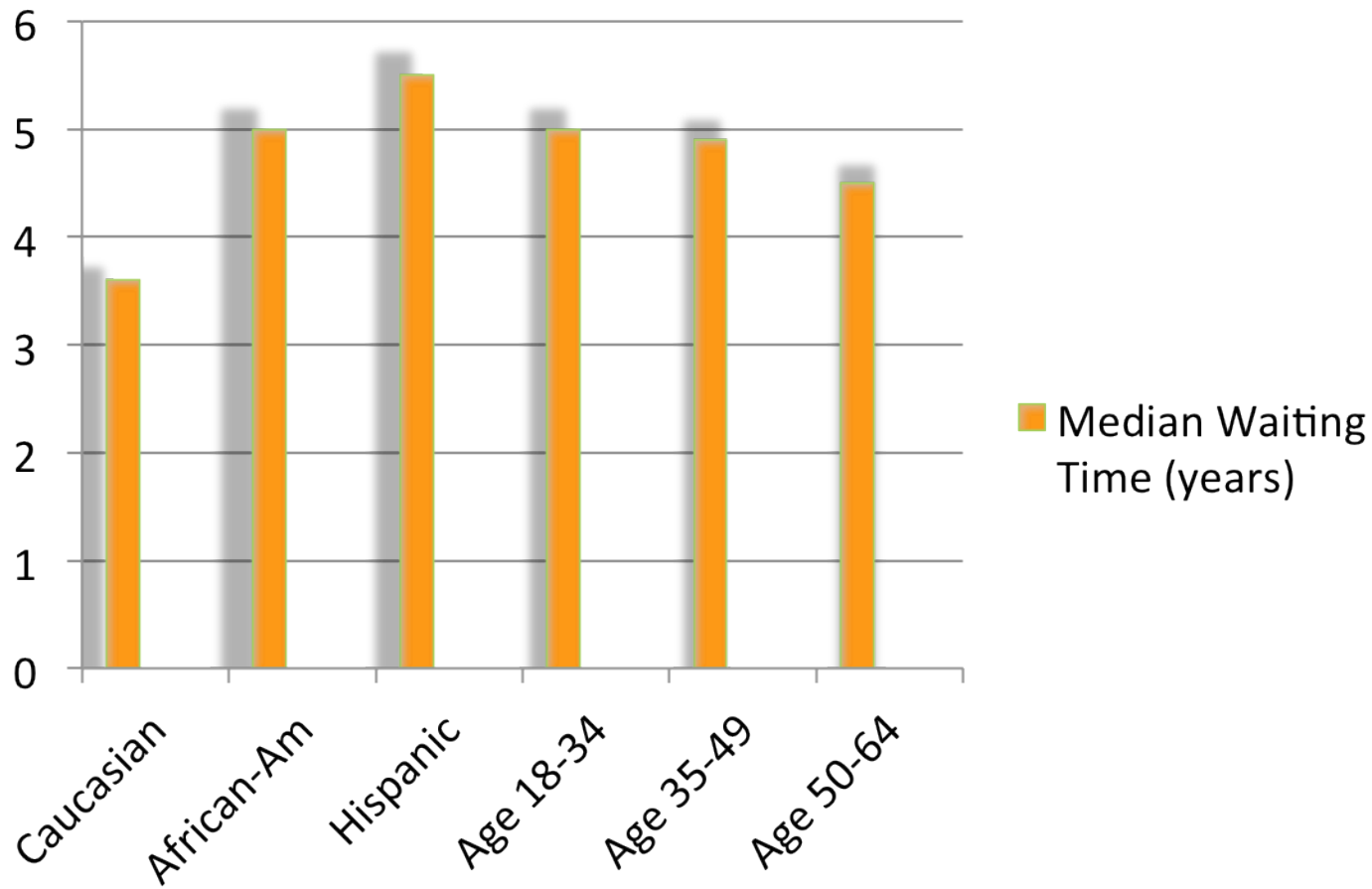


<sup>†</sup> Adjusted for gender, ethnicity, ESRD cause, comorbid conditions, insurance at incidence, employment at incidence, BMI group, and geographic region (census region); 4,360 of 36,176 patients were waitlisted or received a living donor transplant. (SRTR Analysis)

# Reasons Why Patients Not Informed of Transplant Options



# Median Waiting Time by Demographic Category





# Problem Statement

**There is no established system to ensure that medically appropriate candidates are referred to transplantation.**

# Kidney Referral Survey Results

- **Overall lack of oversight of the transplant referral process.**
- **Even though kidney transplantation is the optimal treatment for ESRD, there is no system that monitors timely referral of all potential recipients**
- **Transplant centers generally do not have the resources to determine if eligible patients are referred for evaluation or even informed of transplant options.**
- **Educational efforts to encourage and improve timely referral are needed.**

# Problem Statement

**Late referral has negative medical consequences for patients and limits future opportunities for successful transplantation.**

# Educational Guidance on Patient Referral to Kidney Transplantation

- **Target Referring Providers**
- **Default pathway for CKD/ESRD patients should be transplant referral**
  - **Providers should not preempt decisions on transplant appropriateness**
- **Preemptive transplant is the goal and can only be achieved with timely (so called “early”) referral**
  - **(GFR range = 25-30)**
- **Education about transplant must begin long before ESRD to be most effective**
  - **(Stage 3-4 CKD)**

# Organizational Input

## Transplant Partners

- AST
- ASTS
- ASN
- NKF
- STSW
- NATCO

## OPTN Committees

- Kidney
- Patient Affairs
- Living Donor
- Transplant  
Administrators

## Provider Organization Reps

- MOTTEP
- ANNA
- ACP

# Major Feedback Themes

- **Incorporating KAS Information (Dialysis Waiting Time)**
- **Appropriate Timing of Referral**
- **Transplant System Impacts**
- **Incorporating KDIGO 2012 Clinical Practice Guidelines**
- **Noncompliance**

# Resolution 3

**RESOLVED, that the document entitled “Educational Guidance on Patient Referral to Kidney Transplantation,” as set forth in Exhibit A to the MAC’s report to the Board, is hereby approved, effective June 25, 2013.**

*\*Page 6 of Board book*