



Quantifying the Impact of Race-Neutral eGFR Calculations on Wait Time for African American Kidney Transplant Candidates: An Institutional Experience

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Introduction

- Race is a social construct that has wide-reaching implications on health access and outcomes^{1,3}.
- Race has historically been used in the calculation of eGFR, which put Black patients at a disadvantage in receiving a kidney transplant.
- Effective July 2022, transplant centers were required to **adjust waiting time for Black kidney transplant candidates** using a new, **race-neutral eGFR calculation**.
- Centers were given until **January 2024** by UNOS to enact this policy.
- Little has been reported about the effect of this policy change on access to kidney transplantation for Black patients at the center level.
- Northwestern Medicine (NM) is a large kidney transplant center within a Donor Service Area in which the median wait time is approximately 7 years².

Research Objective

To evaluate the **quantitative impact** of the race neutral eGFR calculations on Black kidney transplant candidates at NM, a large-volume transplant center.



Methods

Cohort:

- Adults (>18yrs) listed for kidney transplantation at Northwestern Medicine, who per UNOS were suggested to earn back waiting time after implementation of the new race-neutral eGFR policy in July 2022.

Data Collection:

- Manual data extraction from electronic medical record
- Demographics: age, gender, etiology of disease
- Outcomes: dialysis start date, adjusted dialysis start date (due to policy change)

Results

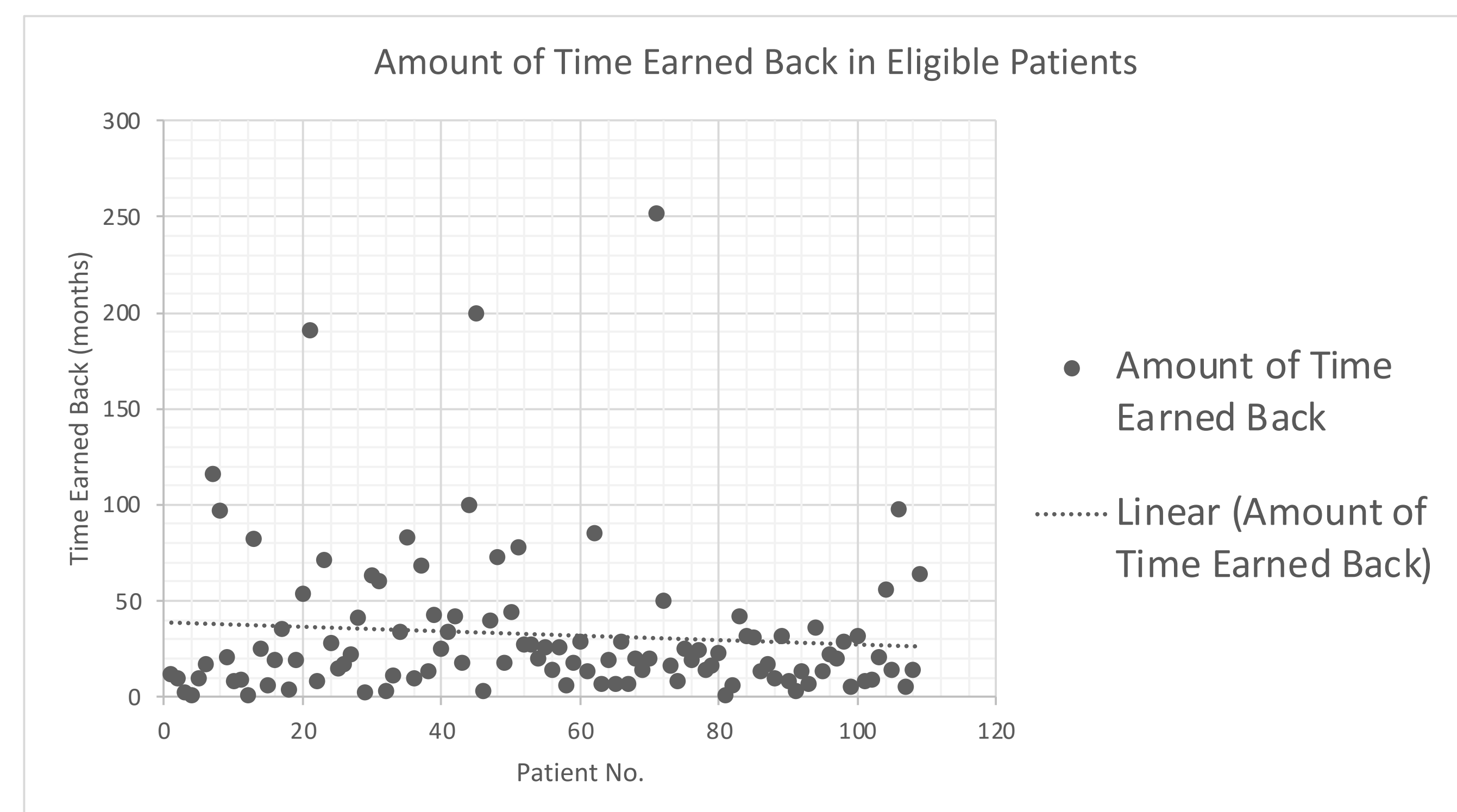
Table 1: Demographics of 109 Patients Receiving Time Back

Demographics	N (%)
Total	109
Gender	
Male	62 (56.3)
Female	47 (42.7)
Age (mean) [SD]	56 [9.85]

Table 2: Etiology of Disease in 273 Black Patients Identified by UNOS

Etiology of Disease, n (%)	No. of Cases, n = 273
Hypertension	86 (32.5)
Diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2)	81 (25.5)
Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)	29 (10.2)
Other	87 (31.8)

Figure 1: Amount of Time Earned Back by Patients



Wait Time Outcomes

- Mean wait time gained back = **2.7 years** (median: 1.7 years; range: 1 month - 21 years).
- Total transplant wait time gained back by Black patients at this center = **298.5 years**.

Implementation of Transplant Wait Time Earned Back from Race-Neutral eGFR Calculation

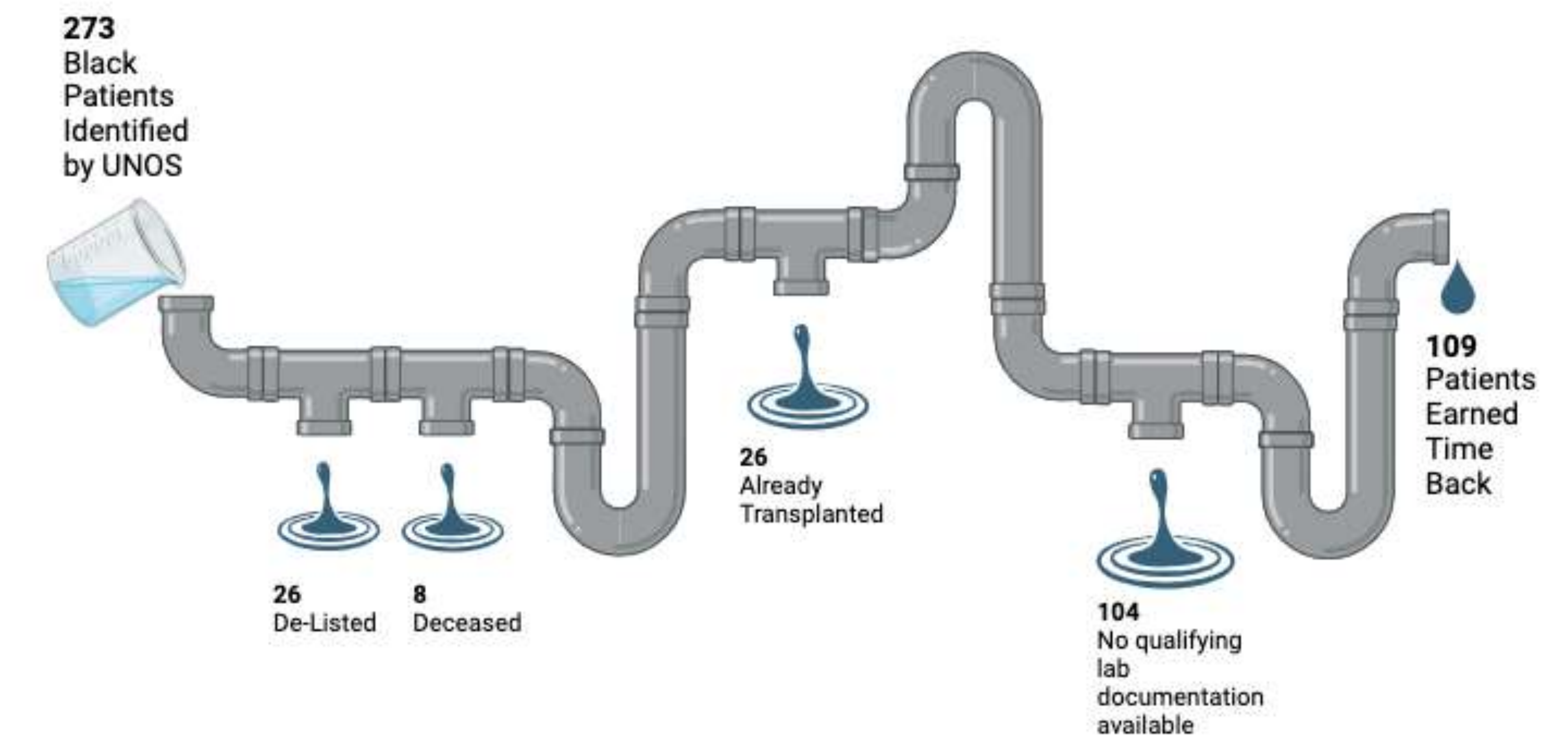


Figure 2: Schematic to demonstrate the process of identifying patients eligible for additional wait time

Discussion

- Eligible Black patients at a large-volume kidney transplant center **earned an average of almost 3 years of wait time** after the implementation of the race-neutral eGFR calculation.
- Access to the benefits of this policy change was greatly limited by the availability of laboratory data and may require advocacy at the patient and provider level.
- Removing these **vestiges of structural racism** from the healthcare system has the potential to greatly **expand access to kidney transplantation** for African American patients.
- Future work is needed to maximize the impact of this policy change. This may include informing patients without lab work readily available about the process of submitting lab data from a variety of sources.

References & Acknowledgements



- **African American Transplant Access Program**
- **Northwestern University Transplant Outcomes Research Collaborative (NUTORC)**

