

August 2020

CONTEXT



- When calculating a patient's kidney function (GFR), we often use a set of calculations based on various factors to estimate their glomerular filtration rate or eGFR
- Traditionally, these risk factors include serum creatinine, age, sex and **race (Black vs. non-Black)**
- The equation reports out two values. For Black patients it increases the estimated GFR by 16-21% to account for their "increased muscle mass", though no robust scientific evidence exists to support this claim
- **The unintended consequence is to assert and propagate a biological cause for Black bodies being different from all non-Black bodies, a popular eugenicist view**

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS



- ❑ African Americans have a **3x** and Hispanics **1.5x higher risk** of developing kidney failure than White Americans¹
- ❑ By having higher eGFRs, Black patients might have delayed referral to specialty services, dialysis and transplantation



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ❑ The inclusion of race is fraught with bias and has lasting deleterious implications for our Black patients. **For a multitude of social and scientific reasons, the Nephrology workgroup feels strongly that the inclusion of subjective race (a social construct) as an objective (biologic) proxy for creatinine generation / clearance in the biomedical environment does not meet the scientific rigor required at NYC Health + Hospitals for our diagnostic screening tools.**

PLANS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION



- ❑ Lab Services - Standardize all eGFR calculations to use CKD-EPI eGFR(Cr) where results will be reported without race adjustment based on serum creatinine, age, sex, and is normalized to 1.73m² body surface area
- ❑ Epic – Work to ensure raced based eGFR is no longer reported out as 2 different values to our clinicians and patients
- ❑ **Approved by Nephrology Workgroup, IM Council, ICU & OB/GYN leadership, Quality & Safety, Medical & Professional Affairs, Equity & Access Council, Clinical Lab Council, CMO Council**

1. <https://www.kidney.org/news/establishing-task-force-to-reassess-inclusion-race-diagnosing-kidney-diseases>

2. <https://tinyurl.com/3ke5bspc>

