The Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network (COIIN) FAQ

What is COIIN?
COIIN is the Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network. It is an OPTN/UNOS 3 year pilot project, funded by HRSA that is chartered to create an alternative approach to transplant performance monitoring that:

- reduces the risk-avoidance behaviors that are associated with current monitoring system
- removes current performance flagging criteria for participating kidney transplant programs
- develops and tests an alternative data-rich quality monitoring framework
- supports a collaborative approach toward performance improvement and effective practices

The overall aim of the project is to increase transplantation, with a particular focus on moderate to high KDPI (Kidney Donor Profile Index) kidneys, defined as a KDPI score greater than 50%.

What is the project plan for years 1-3?

- **Year 1 (October 2015 – September 2016)** is the design period. UNOS COIIN Performance Improvement staff conduct on-site assessments at hospitals selected as Practice Model Hospitals (PMH) in which they will interview key staff on the processes used by their hospital regarding acceptance and utilization of moderate to high KDPI kidneys. PMH were selected if they were in the top of 5-tiers of risk-adjusted adult kidney graft survival from the December 2015 PSR, as well as being in the top 25% of either organ or offer level acceptance rates. Additionally, these hospitals were noted to have a higher utilization of moderate to high KDPI kidneys.

- **Year 2 (October 2016 – March 2017)** is the implementation phase. UNOS will be seeking transplant hospitals to apply to be a part of the pilot study. The application period is slated to begin in July of 2016. The actual pilot will begin in October of 2016 for a period of 12 – 18 months. We anticipate enrolling 15-20 Pilot Hospitals to be a part of the pilot portion of COIIN.

- **Year 3 (April 2017 – September 2017)** will be focused on the evaluation of the COIIN program’s success in driving change, improving outcomes and increasing transplantation. Key learnings will be summarized and key interventions evaluated for sustainability and spread.

What are the deliverables for year 1?

- **Formation of a Stakeholder Advisory Council**
  - Comprised of key stakeholders with representation from Transplant Hospitals, OPOs, CMS and HRSA who will help guide the COIIN project.

- **Creating a Change Management Tool Kit of effective Practices**
  - Identified effective practices will facilitate the acceptance and utilization of Moderate to High KDPI Kidney Organs
  - Identified effective practices will support and improve collaboration with OPOs and Pilot Hospitals
  - Identified effective practices will be designed to increase overall transplantation for Pilot Hospitals

- **Creating a Balanced Scorecard Approach to Measurement**
  - A combination of Outcome, Process, Relationship and Structural Measures will be used to drive change
  - Real time monitoring to support rapid cycle tests of change

- **Establishing the framework for ongoing improvement and transparency within the COIIN**
  - Identified Pilot Hospitals and Partner OPOs will be engaged in identifying their opportunities for improvement
  - Identified Pilot Hospitals and Partner OPOs will be supported by the UNOS PI Team throughout the process with data tools for improvement and performance improvement training
  - Identified Pilot hospitals will learn from each other in a supportive collaborative forum with other transplant hospitals and OPOs in the COIIN

What is the application process and who can apply?

All qualified kidney programs are encouraged to apply in July 2016. More information about minimum requirements to follow.

Who is the contact person for more information?

Nicole Y. Benjamin is the UNOS Program Manager for COIIN and can be reached at 804-782-4622 or via email at nicole.benjamin@unos.org.