Types of Kidney Donors

Living Donor
• A living related donor kidney comes from a blood relative, such as a parent, brother, sister, or an adult child, and is the best transplant option.
• A living unrelated donor kidney comes from someone who is not related to the person receiving the kidney.
• The donor is evaluated by the transplant center to make sure he/she is healthy enough to donate and is offering his/her kidney willingly, without pressure from anyone.

Non-Living Donor
• A non-living donor is someone who has recently died and has donated a healthy kidney.
• Patients who do not have a living donor can be placed on the national organ transplant waiting list to receive a deceased donor kidney.

Kidney Donor Exchange
• If your kidney donor is approved for a living donation but is not a match with you, you and the donor may be able to join a living donor exchange program.

Get the Facts: Kidney Transplantation

For more information

End Stage Renal Disease
National Coordinating Center
website: www.esrdncc.org
e-mail: nccinfo@hsag.com

www.facebook.com/esrd.ncc
@esrdncc

To file a grievance call Toll Free: (800) 262-1514

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What is a kidney transplant?
- A kidney transplant is a surgery in which a person with kidney failure receives a new kidney. The transplanted kidney then cleans your blood in the same way that your kidneys did when they were healthy.
- The new kidney comes from another person. Only one kidney is transplanted. A person can live a healthy life with only one working kidney.
- Kidney transplant is one of your treatment options. It is not a total cure for kidney failure.
- Not everyone can receive a transplant.

What do I need to know about getting a kidney transplant?
- Your medical practitioner will send you to a transplant center. You will be evaluated by a transplant team to make sure you are a good prospect for a kidney transplant.
- You must be healthy enough to have the surgery. You must also be able to take the medications which help your body accept the new kidney.
- Talk to your care team to learn more about how to start the process for a transplant referral and evaluation.
- Donor kidneys come from living donors and non-living donors. A non-living donor is a person who has recently passed away but has donated a healthy kidney. A living donor could be anyone who is a match to you and wants to donate.

What are some outcomes of a kidney transplant?
- Your overall health and quality of life will likely improve.
- You may be less tired and have more energy.
- You have more freedom because you no longer need dialysis.

How will my life change after I get a transplant?
- Once you receive a transplant, you will need to see your care team on a regular basis.
- You will have to take kidney medications for as long as your new kidney lasts.
- Your diet may change after you receive a transplant. Talk to your dietitian for more information.

How will I pay for my kidney transplant?
- Medicare typically covers 80% of the costs if the transplant is done in a hospital approved by Medicare to do kidney transplants. Coverage by private insurers varies.
- Your transplant team will talk to you about the possibility of your body rejecting the transplanted kidney. Part of the cost of anti-rejection medicines may not be covered. These may be expensive.
- A transplant social worker or financial advisor will work with you to determine how your costs will be covered.

The following organizations provide resources and additional information about kidney transplantation:
United Network for Organ Sharing
www.unos.org
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
www.niddk.nih.gov