



KIDNEY TRANSPLANT



WHY DO I NEED A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT?

Many people choose transplant because it is the best treatment option when your kidneys fail. You can either get a transplant right away from a living donor, or you may wait on the list and receive dialysis in the meantime. The sooner you get the transplant, the better.

Studies show that those who get a transplant live longer than those who stay on dialysis. Transplant also gives you the opportunity to live life without being tied to a machine. Transplant is still a treatment, it is not a cure. There is no cure for kidney disease.



OK...TRANSPLANT IT IS, WHERE DO I START?

In order to move forward with transplant, you must go to a transplant center. University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System (UI Health) was the first transplant center in Chicago. To date, we have done over 3000 kidney transplants. You will undergo what is called a transplant evaluation. Here are the steps in the evaluation process:

Step 1

Call UI Health Transplant Center at 312.996.6771. Make sure to have your insurance information on hand! We will take a registration and ask you some basic questions.

Step 2

In person appointment with members of the transplant team. This is your time to talk about anything and everything you want to know about transplant! At this appointment you will meet your transplant nurse coordinator. This nurse will guide you through the evaluation process.

Step 3

Transplant work-up testing. Your transplant nurse and doctor will determine what tests you will need in order to finish your transplant evaluation. Tests needed will depend on medical history, age and gender.

There may be some tests you have already had done, please tell your nurse so we can obtain those records and not repeat any testing.

Step 4

Whew! Testing is done and your results will be discussed with the transplant team to make sure you are a candidate for transplant.

Step 5

Your nurse will call and let you know whether or not you will be placed on the waiting list.

Have a living donor?

Great news! Have your donor call [312.996.6771](tel:312.996.6771) to register at any time during this process.



HOW DO I GET A NEW KIDNEY?

There are two ways to get a new kidney:

- be placed on the nationwide list and wait for a kidney from someone who has died (deceased donation)
- having a living person donate one of their two kidneys (living donation)

Having someone who can donate a kidney to you is a wonderful thing, but not a reality for everyone. Most people are placed on the list to wait for a kidney from someone who has died and wanted to be an organ donor.

Deceased Donation

How does the list work?

After the transplant team has decided you are a candidate, your information will be entered into the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) database. This is the nationwide list where everyone waiting for a kidney is placed.

- You will be grouped according to your blood type.
- Your time waiting on the list will be the day you first started dialysis. For those not on dialysis, your wait time begins when your GFR is less than 20.
- The average wait time in Illinois is 5-6 years. The longer you wait, the higher you are on the list.

For more detailed information about the list, please go to unos.org



Living Donation

When someone wants to donate a kidney to you, that is called living donation. This person does not have to be related to you. It is important that we are not doing any harm in taking out their kidney therefore they must undergo a donor evaluation, similar to your transplant evaluation.

Here are the benefits having a living donor transplant:



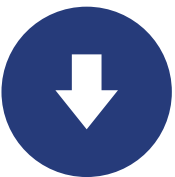
Shorter wait-time

Living donor transplants can take place much sooner and can be scheduled when it is convenient for you and your donor



Faster recovery

Generally living donor recipients recover faster than those with deceased donors



Lower rejection rate

Living donor kidney transplants have a lower rate of rejection (your body attacking the new kidney) than transplants from a deceased donor



If you have a donor, they can follow these easy steps:

Step 1

They need to call UI Health Transplant Center at 312.996.6771. We will take a registration and ask some basic questions.

Did you know? Your insurance covers the medical costs related to the donation.

Step 2

In person appointment with members of the transplant team. This is their time to discuss anything and everything they want to know about kidney donation! At this appointment they will meet their transplant nurse coordinator. This nurse will guide them through the donor evaluation process.

Is your donor not the same blood type? That may still be okay! We have opportunities to swap with another pair or potentially do a blood type incompatible transplant.



Step 3

Testing and appointments. Their nurse and doctor will determine what tests they will need in order to complete the donor evaluation. Tests needed will depend on medical history, age and gender.

Is your donor not in the area? No problem — we can work with donors just about anywhere.

Step 4

Whew! Testing is done and the results will be discussed with the transplant team to make sure they are a candidate for donation.

Step 5

Your donor will be notified of their ability to donate and the transplant will be scheduled.

Why do donors like UI Health so much? Because we do the surgery robotically meaning smaller incisions and less down time.

BUT WAIT, WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE UI HEALTH?

Great question! Here is why we are the best in Chicago:

EXPERT PHYSICIANS

Our doctors are among the Top Doctors in Chicago and the United States.

BEST OUTCOMES

We have some of the best surgery outcomes in organ transplantation with the lowest complication rates.

MOST DIVERSE PATIENT MIX

We treat the highest number of minority patients and the most diverse patient population in the city of Chicago.

WE'VE BEEN DOING IT THE LONGEST

We have a history of groundbreaking innovations in kidney, liver, pancreas and small bowel transplantation.

ROBOTIC OPTIONS FOR OBESE PATIENTS

We are the only program in the world to offer robotic kidney transplantation to obese patients.

WE SEE YOU THROUGH THE FULL PROCESS

Unlike other centers, we provide closely-monitored, one on one care to you through the entire transplant process, from your pre-transplant work-up to your post-operation care.

MEDICATIONS TAILORED TO YOU

We provide access to the most modern medications and avoid using steroids post-transplant.

PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

Our focus is you; we are culturally sensitive to all ethnicities, races, and religions, and we tailor our program to provide the best experience possible for you and your family.

CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

Our physicians are leaders in the transplant field and always working on the next advances. We are part of a number of research currently being funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH).

You are just a phone call away from starting your transplant evaluation at UI Health. Call 312.996.6771 to begin!

UI Health Transplant Center
1855 West Taylor St., Suite 1077
Chicago, IL 60612
[UIHealthTransplant.Care](https://www.uihealthtransplant.com)



“For months before I found out what was wrong, my legs were swollen, my skin was changing color, and I lost the taste of food — a cheeseburger would taste like lead. I needed a new kidney but finding someone willing to give me one of theirs was not easy. Fortunately, finding a hospital qualified to do the transplant was.”

- *Marvin Robinson*

Living Donor Transplant Recipient