Kidney Transplantation: An Option for Patients with ESRD

More than 26 million Americans have kidney disease, and millions more are at risk. For many patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD), kidney transplantation is a viable, lifesaving option.

The Kidney Transplantation Program distinguishes itself as a worldwide leader with respect to volume and experience in treating a wide range of patients.

The surgeons at the UPMC Kidney Transplant Program have years of experience in both deceased-donor and living-donor transplants. The significant expansion of UPMC’s exclusively laparoscopic (minimally invasive) live donor program provides another option for patients awaiting transplant.

(continued)
UPMC KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION PROGRAM

As a pioneer in the field of solid-organ transplantation, our program has been consistently challenged with some of the most difficult and complex cases. We offer patients optimal care regardless of their prognosis or the severity of their condition. Our surgeons and nephrologists have used this high level of complex cases to develop new and improved treatments.

To view specific information about our outcomes, including one- and three-year survival rates, please visit the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) at SRTR.org.

Is Your Patient a Candidate?
Candidates for kidney transplants include patients suffering from end-stage renal disease. Although dialysis is a viable treatment option, many people choose to pursue transplantation because it allows greater independence, which can lead to a more normal lifestyle. Research also has found that patients who had a successful kidney transplant live longer and have less medical complications than patients on dialysis.

However, patients do not have to be on dialysis to be evaluated for or receive a transplant. For some individuals, a kidney transplant may not be an option due to other medical problems. These conditions can be identified based on your input or during our initial evaluation.

Kidney transplant waitlist times compared to national median

According to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR.org)

Research that Continues to Improve Patient Care
UPMC is a leader in immunosuppressive therapy and other cutting-edge research and advancements. Our latest work focuses on reducing or even eliminating the need for antirejection medications to support long-term outcomes. This includes pioneering recipient presurgical preconditioning to prevent initial rejection, while reducing the need for high doses of antirejection medications immediately after surgery.

Partnering for Life
We take pride in keeping the lines of communication open with patients, families, and referring physicians regarding status, procedures, treatments, and follow-up care. Although a kidney transplant is a complex, serious procedure, we maintain a personal, patient-focused approach that takes into consideration the stress and concerns many individuals experience throughout the evaluation, operation, and recovery period.

To ensure optimal continuity of patient care, the UPMC kidney transplant team pursues a collaborative approach with referring physicians. UPMC’s transplant surgeons and physicians are available for consults 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Throughout the transplant process, a member of the transplant team will continually update the referring physician about the patient’s progress. This partnership begins at the time of referral and continues throughout the patient’s stay in the hospital and long after they are discharged. After transplant, our patients receive postoperative care from our kidney transplant team.

Outreach and Education
We recognize that open dialogue with referring physicians and dialysis centers is essential in building strong relationships and better care for patients. Our staff welcomes the opportunity to speak with individual physicians, group practices, dialysis units, or affiliated organizations to provide information on services and physician specialties, coordinate contacts with key transplant staff, and provide an update of transplant program research studies. For more information, contact our outreach liaison at 1-800-544-2500 or UPMCKidneyReferrals@upmc.edu.

Referring Your Patient
To refer a patient to the UPMC Kidney Transplantation Program:

1. Have ready the following information:
   - demographic information (name, date of birth, address, phone number, emergency contacts)
   - original diagnosis, including prior history of medical care and previous medical tests performed (radiologic and pathology reports, inpatient/outpatient records, lab reports, reports of previous transplant evaluations)
   - insurance information

2. Call 1-800-544-2500 or 412-647-5800 to speak with a clinician or email UPMCKidneyReferrals@upmc.edu.

3. Mail, fax, or email all related information and medical records regarding your case to the office.

4. After receipt of medical records and financial clearance, the initial evaluation for your patient will be scheduled.

For more information about referring a patient, visit UPMC.com/KidneyTransplant.

Contact
Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute
UPMC Montefiore, 7 South
3459 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412-647-5800 or 1-877-640-6746
UPMC’s 24-hour physician referral service:
1-800-544-2500
Fax: 412-647-5070
Email: UPMCKidneyReferrals@upmc.edu

LOCATIONS

UPMC's transplant programs are among the world's largest and are internationally renowned for their influence on the field of transplantation. For nearly 30 years, UPMC has been providing care to adult and pediatric transplant patients through services at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute; the UPMC Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery; and the Children's Hillman Center for Pediatric Transplantation. Today, UPMC has performed more than 10,000 transplants, including heart, lung, intestinal, kidney, liver, pancreas, and multiple-organ transplants, along with heart assist device implantation. UPMC also partners with the University of Pittsburgh to advance basic science and clinically applied research, as well as to support the teaching and training of transplant specialists worldwide.

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Fax: 412-647-5070
Email: UPMCKidneyReferrals@upmc.edu