



Meet the Members of the Transplant Team

As the patient, YOU are the most important member of the team because you know your body best. Your transplant team will work with you to make your transplant as successful as possible. It is important that you know the people on your team. They will help you through the transplant process.

Transplant Team

Getting to know the transplant team will help you to be active in your care. You can tell the team what you need. You can also tell the care team how you are feeling. And you can work with the healthcare team to make decisions.

Each member of the healthcare team has a special role.

The **transplant surgeon** is the doctor who performs the transplant surgery. He or she has special training in kidney transplants.

The **social worker** helps you and your family know about what to expect in the process. The social worker will share resources with you. This person can help handle issues related to the transplant process. This may include paying for the transplant or the medicines needed after the transplant. He or she can counsel a person coping with kidney disease and a transplant.

The **kidney doctor** is also called a nephrologist. He or she will talk to you and the surgeon about what might be best for you to have the best outcome for your kidney transplant.

The **transplant unit staff nurse** will care for you when you are in the hospital for your transplant. The nurse will explain your tests, medications, and follow-up care.

The **transplant coordinator** is usually a nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. He or she will oversee your evaluation, treatment plan, and follow-up care.

The **pharmacist** will review your medicines with you. He or she will talk with you to help make it safe to take all medications for all of your health conditions.

The **dietitian** is an expert in nutrition who will help you plan the kinds and amounts of food to eat. He or she will help you choose the best foods to eat based on your current health. He or she shares information on dialysis-friendly food and how much fluid to drink.

Your **healthcare team** is everyone who helps manage a part of your medical conditions. It may include your family doctor, a specialist, or your primary care provider. They can help coordinate medical care with your transplant team.



If you have questions about what the members of the transplant team do, talk to your healthcare team or transplant coordinator.



3000 Bayport Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33607 | 844.472.4250 | 813.354.1514 fax | www.esrdncc.org

This resource was adapted by the End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC) contractor under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, based on material originally prepared by ESRD Network 8. The contents do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. FL-ESRD NCC-7N5TA2-07022020-07

