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.