



Types of Kidney Donors

A kidney donor can be a non-living donor or a living donor. The donor and the donor's kidney must meet certain standards to be used in a transplant. The kidney must also be a match for blood and tissue type.

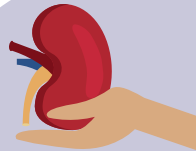


Non-Living Donor

A non-living donor is someone who has died. He or she agreed to donate his or her healthy organs before death. In some cases, the family of the donor agrees to donate the healthy organs of the family member.

More people need kidney transplants than there are donated kidneys. Anyone who chooses transplant from a non-living (cadaver) kidney donor has to be put on a waiting list. Time on the waiting list can depend on many factors, including:

- The recipient's blood type.
- The recipient's age.
- The recipient's health history.
- The recipient's support system.
- How long the person has been on dialysis.



Living Donor

A living donor is anyone who is a match to the recipient and wants to donate.

Living donors are tested to make sure that it is safe for them to donate a kidney. They are also tested to see if they are a good match to the recipient.

The waiting time can be shorter than the waiting time for a transplant from a non-living donor.

A person wanting a kidney transplant can learn about programs for living kidney donation from the healthcare team.

The Transplant Waiting List

If you need a non-living donor kidney, you will be placed on a waiting list until a kidney is available. When a donor organ becomes available, the person who is the best match will receive the transplant. A member of the transplant staff usually calls the person who needs a kidney. The transplant must take place very soon after the kidney becomes available. The recipient must go immediately to the hospital transplant center.

To learn more about your kidney donor options, talk to your 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-7N5TA2-07022020-02

