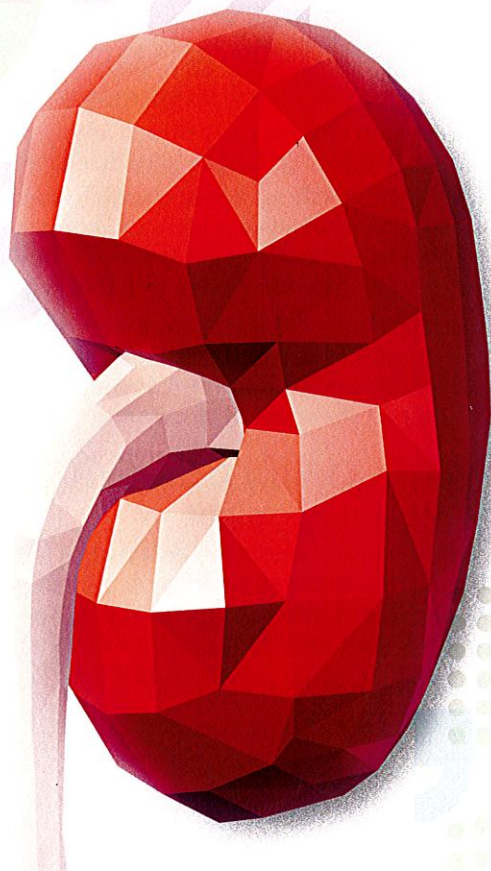


Hartford
Hospital
Transplant Program

Donor information

Living Kidney Donation



What you need to know about living kidney donation.

Who Can Donate?

In the past, donors had to be genetically related. Today, donors can be:

- Immediate family members
- Extended family members
- Spouses
- Friends
- Social Network – church, work
- Neighbors
- Anyone!

Important to Know

- Donor safety is our number one priority.
- Donor information will be completely protected.
- Donors can change their minds at any point in the process and will be supported by the transplant team.

Benefits of Living Donation for the Donor

Donation has no medical benefit for the living kidney donor. However, it can have a profoundly positive impact on their life knowing that they have helped someone in need.

Benefits of Living Donation for the Transplant Recipient

There are many benefits to receiving a kidney from a living donor including:

- Preventing or decreasing the amount of time on dialysis
- Increases quality of life
- Increases life expectancy



- Better outcomes, lower risk for rejection
- Shorter recovery time
- Can be scheduled at a convenient time

Kidney Paired Exchange

If a donor is not compatible with their recipient they will be given information about several paired kidney donation programs. These programs use computer databases to match pairs that are incompatible or difficult to match.

Sometimes this computer database results in a simple two way swap, sometimes this can be a long chain. A donor would never be asked to give their kidney without another kidney being available for their recipient.

Participation in the program is voluntary. Both donors and recipients will be fully educated on how these programs work and what their commitment would be. Each participant must consent to participate and can change their decision at any time.

Risks of Living Kidney Donation

The risks of donation are similar to those involved with any major surgery, such as bleeding and infection. Kidney failure or death resulting from kidney donation is extremely rare.

Long term, living with one kidney should not affect your health. Donors are encouraged to follow a healthy lifestyle. Life expectancy is not affected by donation.

Risks will be reviewed in detail during the donor's visit to the Transplant Program.

Recovery from Kidney Donation

Living kidney donors are typically in the hospital 2-3 days. Full recovery can take 6-8 weeks. Donation should not have any lasting physical effects.



What is the Process?

Interested kidney donors should contact the Living Kidney Donor Coordinator at 860.972.4219. We will send you a packet that includes more information regarding donation as well as forms to be returned to Hartford Hospital Transplant Program. Then the evaluation process will begin. This is a detailed evaluation that is individualized to each donor's needs but typically follows the following format:

- Telephone conference for education and initial screening
- Blood work for compatibility testing
- Blood work for general health status
- Urine collection to measure kidney function
- Evaluation by the complete transplant donor team
- CT scan of kidneys

Any further testing is to be determined by the team based on donor's need.

Questions?

Feel free to contact the Hartford Hospital Transplant Program at our main number: 860.972.4219. You can also speak directly with one of our Living Donor Coordinators: Kari Rancourt at 860.972.9918 or Azzy Anane at 860.972.4632.



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