



**939**

living donor kidneys since  
our program's inception

### ***About Living Donor Kidney Transplants***

Living donor kidney transplants are accomplished when a healthy individual with two functioning kidneys agrees to donate one of their healthy kidneys to someone who is on dialysis or will need dialysis in the very near future. Individuals who need dialysis have been determined by their physician to have end-stage renal disease (ESRD), making them a potential candidate for a transplant.

**Studies show patients receiving a kidney from a living donor have an overall higher transplant success rate than those who receive a kidney from a deceased donor.**

## LIVING DONOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS

KIDNEY

### CONTACT US

#### **Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program**

402.559.5000  
800.401.4444

[www.NebraskaMed.com/transplant](http://www.NebraskaMed.com/transplant)



A guide to the benefits of a  
**living donor kidney transplant.**

## BENEFITS OF LIVING DONOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

- The quality of the donated kidney can be determined before transplantation, avoiding unforeseen problems with the donor kidney
- A related donor's kidney may more closely match a recipient's body tissue and reduce the chance of rejecting the donated kidney
- There are not enough deceased donors to fulfill the need – each day the number of patients in need of a transplant grows
- Long waiting periods for deceased donor kidneys are eliminated
- Surgery becomes a planned event for the patient and donor optimizing the chance for a successful transplant

## FACTORING RISK

When considering any major surgery, there are always risks involved. Those risks are minimized by complete and thorough evaluation before surgery and follow-up care. The donors are usually discharged from the hospital within two to three days following surgery and can return to normal activities within four to six weeks.

There is minimal risk of major or long-term health problems for the donor. In the majority of cases, all costs related to the donation including evaluation, testing and surgery are paid by the recipient's insurance.

## TYPES OF LIVING DONOR TRANSPLANTS

- **Living Related Donors**  
Individuals who are biologically related to the transplant recipient.
- **Living Unrelated Donors**  
Individuals who are not biologically related to the transplant recipient and may include a spouse, friend, neighbor, co-worker, church member or in-law.
- We are involved with **The Kidney Paired Donation** which involves two or more pairs of potential living donors and recipients who are not compatible. The candidates will do an exchange so that each candidate receives a kidney from a compatible donor on the same day. These paired donations have greatly increased the number of recipients that have received kidneys, who may not have otherwise been able to find a living donor match.
- **ABO Incompatibility**  
Individuals have the possibility to donate directly to the recipient if they are not the same blood type.
- **Anonymous Donors**  
Individuals who offer to donate a kidney to an individual who is listed on the waiting list but is someone they do not know.



## DONOR EVALUATION PROCESS

**Potential living kidney donors will undergo an initial evaluation arranged by a living donor coordinator which includes:**

- Explanation of the donor evaluation process
- Review of the donor's medical history
- Blood tests to determine blood type and compatibility with the potential recipient
- Blood and urine tests along with other diagnostic tests to determine normal kidney function as well as the overall health of a potential donor
- Meetings with the independent donor advocate, a surgeon, nephrologist and the members of the transplant team to discuss possible risks, benefits and desire to proceed with donation

## WHO CAN DONATE?

**All potential donors must:**

- Donate voluntarily
- Be healthy with normal kidney function
- Be over 19 years of age

*All tests will be reviewed by the transplant team and must be determined as satisfactory prior to accepting someone as a donor. If you are interested in becoming a living donor, please call the transplant office at 402.559.5000 or toll-free 800.401.4444.*