Kidney transplant evaluation

Considering a kidney transplant?

A kidney transplant may be an effective treatment option for people with advanced kidney disease. The evaluation process helps determine whether a transplant is a safe and appropriate choice based on your overall health, medical history and individual needs.

Our transplant team takes a personalized approach to evaluation and works closely with patients and families throughout every step of the process.

Who may be referred for evaluation?

You may be referred for a kidney transplant evaluation if you have:

- End-Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD/ESRD)
- Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD Stage IV or V)

Referral for evaluation does not guarantee eligibility for transplantation. The evaluation is designed to assess whether transplantation can be performed safely and whether it is likely to provide long-term benefit.

What happens during the evaluation?

Your transplant evaluation may include:

- Review of your medical and surgical history
- Physical examination
- Blood and laboratory testing
- Heart and lung testing
- Cancer screening, when appropriate
- Medication review
- Consultations with transplant physicians, surgeons, nurses, social workers, dietitians and other specialists as needed

The evaluation also helps identify any medical conditions that should be treated before transplantation.

Factors that may affect eligibility

Kidney transplantation may not be appropriate for everyone. Certain medical conditions or personal circumstances can increase the risks associated with surgery and long-term transplant care.

Examples of factors that may affect transplant eligibility include:

- Active cancer
- Active infections
- Significant heart or lung disease
- Severe obesity
- Ongoing substance use concerns
- Uncontrolled mental health conditions
- Conditions that may limit the ability to safely undergo surgery
- Medical issues that could significantly affect transplant success

Some conditions must be resolved before transplantation can be considered, while others may require additional testing, treatment or review by the transplant team.

Additional considerations

Successful transplantation requires ongoing medical care and lifelong follow-up. As part of the evaluation, the transplant team may consider:

- Ability to take medications as prescribed
- Attendance at medical appointments and follow-up care
- Availability of family, caregiver or social support
- Physical strength and overall conditioning
- Smoking history and tobacco use

- Other chronic health conditions

Having one or more of these factors does not automatically prevent transplantation. Each patient is evaluated individually.

Our commitment to patient-centered care

We understand that exploring kidney transplantation can be both exciting and overwhelming. Our multidisciplinary team is committed to providing compassionate, respectful and individualized care throughout the evaluation process.

We encourage patients and families to ask questions, discuss concerns and actively participate in shared decision-making as we work together to determine the best treatment options.

Contact us

If you'd like to learn more about kidney transplantation or discuss a referral for evaluation, contact our transplant program at 800-275-6401. Our team is happy to answer questions and guide you through the next steps.