

Kidney Transplant Recipient Selection Criteria Patient Handout

This document explains the criteria our transplant center uses to evaluate and accept kidney transplant candidates. Patients referred for transplant are accepted for evaluation at our transplant program regardless of race, ethnicity religion, national origin, gender or sexual orientation. Selection criteria for kidney transplantation includes End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

Absolute Contraindications to Kidney Transplant

- The presence of metastatic or untreated cancer
- Active or untreated infection
- Severe peripheral vascular disease as evidenced by CT scan or clinical exam
- Severe pulmonary or uncorrectable cardiovascular disease
- Active drug or alcohol abuse
- Active tobacco use in any form (smoking, vaping, chewing)
- Inhaled cannabis use
- Requirement for continuous oxygen use
- Uncontrolled psychiatric disorders or suicidal ideation
- Wheelchair bound due to failure to thrive or non-modifiable frailty
- BMI > 45
- Severe malnutrition/cachexia
- Evidence of non-compliance to medical therapy in the last year such as missed or non-medically indicated shortened dialysis treatment
- Pattern of medication non-compliance, or failure to follow medical treatment
- Patients living in a Skilled Nursing Facility
- Lack of adequate insurance or funds to afford medications or expenses after transplant
- Lack of stable housing or homelessness
- Lack of adequate family or social support for post-transplant care 24 hours, 7 days a week for a minimum of 3 to 4 weeks
- Inability to manage medications regimen after transplant
- Lack of reliable mode of transportation to attend post-transplant appointments
- Inability to maintain appropriate and timely communication with health care team
- Inappropriate or threatening behavior towards health care providers or team

Relative Contraindications to Kidney Transplant (Case-by-Case Consideration)

- Patients over the age of 70 will be seen and evaluated on a case-by-case basis based on deceased organ wait times for patient blood type, or whether the patient has an eligible potential living donor
- HIV+ patients with HIV infection with viral load < 50 or CD4 count < 200 cells/ml on medications or inability to take medications consistently
- Patients who are unwilling to accept blood transfusions under any circumstances while taking anticoagulants
- Patients with rapid recurrence of native kidney disease in previous transplant
- Chronic opioid use
- Developmental disability as evidenced by neuropsychiatric testing without appropriate support
- LVEF less than 40%
- History of substance abuse disorder with high risk of relapse
- Frailty that cannot be reversed with physical therapy, patients must be able to perform activities of daily living
- Patients who are on medications for low blood pressure that cannot be corrected with adjusting dialysis prescriptions or other measures