

Thank you for your interest in living kidney donation and transplant! You will have options within our program about how a living kidney donor transplant can happen.

**Standard living kidney transplant.** This option applies when the donor is compatible with their recipient and can donate directly to them. The surgery is scheduled when both the donor and recipient have completed their medical evaluations. Both must be accepted and the recipient medically ready for transplant, and financial clearance obtained.

**Paired exchange donation/transplant.** This option applies usually when a donor is incompatible with their recipient. The donor cannot donate directly to them due to the risk of kidney rejection. Some standard pairs (compatible) choose to participate in the exchange. This happens when looking for a better age, size or genetic matched donor. It can also be done for preferred scheduling options, or for generous reasons to help others, in addition to their own recipient.

The donor and recipient pair are entered into a national pool of incompatible pairs. They are then matched with a pair with whom they are compatible. In most cases, the donor and recipient surgeries take place on the same day. Recipients must have a living donor to participate in the paired exchange program. An exchange transplant has several pathways that pairs are given so they can choose the option that works best for them.

- **Standard paired exchange.** This pathway is a chain of matched pairs, with each “link” of **surgeries occurring in most cases, on the same day.** The donor and their intended recipient both have surgery scheduled at their home transplant center. Our team can give a wait time estimate to match the pair to another pair in the pool. No timeframe is guaranteed.
- **Advanced or Voucher donation.** This pathway allows the donor to choose to donate **before the recipient has been matched.** This option allows the pair to care for each other during recovery from surgery, or for donors to proceed if they have timing limitations due to work, family, or other reasons.

Advanced donation may be done for someone who needs a kidney now, or for a future kidney need. The recipient wait time will be the same whether the donor selects the standard paired exchange option or the advanced donation option.

**Altruistic kidney donors** (no specific recipient is named) are donating to start a chain of transplants in the paired exchange program. There are two options available:

- **Non Directed donation.** This happens when a generous person without a kidney recipient in mind, is matched to a recipient, to start a chain of transplants. This donor does not choose to name any future recipients from their family for unexpected transplant need in future.
- **Family Voucher donation.** This means that the altruistic donor may name up to five family members as voucher holders. Family members must be healthy and not be expected to need a kidney transplant. If one of the voucher holders needs a kidney unexpectedly in the future, they would have credit to receive a living donor kidney through the exchange program. The named person qualifies for a kidney as a result of the voucher donor’s prior gift of donation. If a voucher holder uses the voucher to receive a living donor kidney, no additional vouchers can be used from that voucher donor. The voucher is through the National Kidney Registry.

The living donor team is available to answer any questions that you have about living kidney donor transplant options.