



Kidney Q&A

4-12 months

Life Options Rehabilitation Program
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www.lifeoptions.org

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Q: What is the phone number and address of the transplant center?

A: There may be more than one transplant center within travel distance from your home. Things you will want to find out to help you decide between them include:

- Where your insurance will pay the most
- Where your doctor refers patients
- How far you will need to go for the transplant and clinic visits
- The number of patients on the waiting list
- How a living donor's kidney will be removed
- The number of kidney transplants the center does each year
- The center's success rate
- Where you have the most confidence in the transplant staff

What insurance will pay: Medicare will cover your transplant anywhere in the U.S. If you have any other kind of health insurance, it may only cover a transplant at a certain transplant center or it may pay more at certain centers than at others.

Living donor testing: If you have family or friends who want to donate a kidney, they will need testing to see if they are in good health and a good match. The transplant team can tell you and your donor what to expect from surgery and recovery, including your diet, drugs, and how to stay healthy.

National organ list: If you don't have a donor, you may be able to receive a kidney from a deceased person. The United Network for Organ Sharing keeps a nationwide list. Kidneys are given to those with the closest blood and tissue match first, but you earn points for waiting time. *Never assume that you are on a transplant list.* Always ask your doctor.

What I can do to find out more about transplant:

- Call my insurance company and ask about my coverage for transplant.
- Ask my doctor where he or she refers patients for transplant and why.
- Look up transplant centers' success rates on www.ustransplant.org.
- Visit transplant centers and talk with the staff and patients.
- Visit *Transplant Living* on the UNOS website, www.unos.org.
- Visit module 2 of Kidney School™: *Treatment Options for Kidney Disease* at www.kidneyschool.org to learn more about transplant.