

Become a

donor

and save a life



Ochsner®

Multi-Organ Transplant Institute

LIVING DONOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PROGRAM



## **The Ochsner Multi-Organ Transplant Institute**

encourages patients and their families to consider living donor kidney transplantation. Since there are not enough deceased donor kidneys for all the people who need them, another option is a transplant from someone who is alive.

Most people are born with two kidneys. This means one of the two kidneys can be taken out and put into another person's body. The donor's kidney adapts to make up for having one kidney.

Living kidney donation is safe. Donating a kidney does not affect how long a donor lives, their quality of life or health. A donor is at no greater risk for kidney failure than an average person. Adult family and friends can be considered as living donors.



## Who Can Be a Donor?

- ✓ They are at least 18 years old
- ✓ They are in overall good health
- ✓ Their blood type is a match for you
- ✓ Donating their kidney is something they really want to do

## What are the advantages of a living donor kidney transplant?

### High quality new kidney

Because we know about a living donor's past and present health, we are able to make sure the donor's kidney works well for you. Kidneys from living donors usually work better for a longer time than deceased donors.

### Timely transplant if you are not on dialysis

Your living donor transplant can be done before you get sicker or before you begin dialysis.

### Shorter wait time

You do not have to wait for three to five years on a list when you have a living donor.

### Time to plan

You have more time to plan with a living donor. This means your transplant can be done when you and your donor are in the best health possible.

## Living Kidney Donor Process

### 1. Interview

- Donor must call 1.800.643.1635 to begin the process.
- Donor's information and medical history is taken over the phone.

### 2. Evaluation

- Blood tests are done to know if the donor's kidney is a match for you. This can be done in the donor's hometown.
- Tests are done to make sure the donor is healthy and that their kidneys work well.

### 3. Surgery

- Minimally invasive surgery is done, letting the donor heal more quickly.
- Donor stays in the hospital for 24 hours.
- Donors can restart most regular activities within two to four weeks.



## Kidney Paired Donation (KPD)

KPD is a national kidney swap program. This is an option if your donor:

- Is not a match for you
- Has a different blood type than you need

### How Kidney Paired Donation Works

- Your donor offers a kidney to someone in the country waiting for a kidney transplant. In return, you get a kidney that matches with you.
- Your donor's evaluation and surgery are done at Ochsner.
- Your donor's kidney is sent to the transplant center where the person getting that kidney is being transplanted.
- The kidney that matches with you is shipped to Ochsner for your transplant.

For additional information, please call our Living Kidney Donor Transplant Office at: **1.800.643.1635** or visit **[ochsner.org/livingkidney](https://ochsner.org/livingkidney)** to download our education handbook.

