

Kidney Transplant Selection Criteria

All patients referred for primary or repeat kidney transplantation undergo a rigorous medical, psychological, and social evaluation by the transplant team and other specialty consultants, as indicated. The medical evaluation includes a complete history and physical examination with radiologic and laboratory assessment to determine the severity of the kidney disease and any comorbidity factors. Based on this comprehensive evaluation, the multidisciplinary kidney transplant team decides whether transplantation is advisable.

Candidacy for renal transplant is determined based on specific program selection criteria. In select patients, alternative therapies may include dialysis. Candidates must have either end-stage renal disease (ESRD) or advanced chronic kidney disease and desire a renal transplant.

Candidates are considered based on

- 1) the individual's overall health and functional status (regardless of age)
- 2) sufficient family and social support systems
- 3) the ability to obtain transportation to and from the transplant center and
- 4) the ability to obtain and take prescribed medications after transplant and to successfully manage the post-transplant treatment regimen.

Patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD stage IV or higher) may be referred and evaluated; however, a candidate must be dialysis-dependent or have a creatinine clearance of < 30cc/min before they will be placed on the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) waiting list.

The following list is intended as guidance for appropriate patient referral.

Absolute Contraindications

1. Active untreated infection. This may include bacterial, viral, and fungal infections.
2. Previous aortofemoral graft reconstruction for peripheral vascular disease.
3. Severe mental disability without adequate social support to manage post-transplant regimen.
4. Severe irreversible extra-renal end-organ disease (for example, respiratory disease, cardiac disease, or hepatic disease).
5. Severe active vasculitis or other autoimmune disorders.
6. Active untreated malignancy other than non-melanoma skin cancer, including patients with

recent metastatic disease.

7. Active drug abuse (cocaine, IV drugs, methamphetamines, alcohol, etc.).

8. Patients who use tobacco products with significant cardiac disease, severe peripheral vascular disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

9. General medical condition or significant end-organ failure that makes the risk of transplant greater than the potential benefit.

10. Absence of psychosocial support.

Relative Contraindications

1. Serious medical problems that may be reversible.

2. Organic neurological disorders, psychiatric disorders, and drug addiction that will, in our opinion, significantly impair the candidate's ability to manage the post-transplant regimen.

3. Severe peripheral vascular disease.

4. Malignancy within the last two to five years other than non-melanoma skin cancers.

Candidates with a previous malignancy will be evaluated individually based on surgery notes, pathology reports, and cancer treatment records.

5. Moderately severe or severe cardiac disease, including ischemic myocardial disease, congestive heart failure, valvular disease, and myopathies

6. Obesity or malnutrition to the extent that this factor significantly impacts surgical risk and life expectancy

7. Inability to provide an adequate psychosocial support plan

8. Inability to provide an adequate financial plan for the provision of medications and the cost associated with post-transplant care

9. Non-adherence with dialysis or medical regimen.

10. Poor overall functional status