

**Maine Medical Center
Transplant Program
Policies and Procedures
Informed Consent for Living Kidney Donors Policy**

Purpose

To define the policy and procedures used in the process of informed consent for living kidney donation.

Policy

It is the policy of the Maine Transplant Program to provide potential living kidney donors with all of the necessary information to make an informed decision about whether to donate, to evaluate whether the potential donor understands this information, and to evaluate whether the potential donor comes to an informed decision about whether to donate that is voluntary and free of coercion. To insure that these objectives are met, potential donors participate in a multistep educational process over time. Of primary importance in the process are opportunities to ask questions of care providers at any time and the opportunity to opt out of donation at any point prior to the surgery.

Procedure

1. All potential living donors receive educational material and consent forms. Examples of educational topics include the living donor evaluation process, selection criteria for living donors and the living donor team. Consents are signed before the evaluation begins and again towards the end of the evaluation. These two consents (Consent to be Evaluated to Become a Living Kidney Donor and Living Kidney Donor Rights) together meet UNOS and CMS requirements for Informed Consent of Living Kidney Donors.
2. Potential donor medical records are reviewed for preliminary suitability for living donation.
3. During the evaluation process the potential donor will receive living donor education, to include but are not limited to:
 - The donor evaluation process
 - Risks and benefits of living donation
 - Risks and benefits of transplantation (both living and deceased)
 - Financial risks
 - Financial resources available to living donors
 - Kidney paired donation
 - Confidentiality and opportunity to opt out
 - Independent Living Donor Advocate
 - Living donor surgery and post-surgery care
 - Long term health and follow up

Following this education and prior to any multidisciplinary evaluations or testing, the potential donor will review the Consent to Be Evaluated with the Living Donor Coordinator. The content of this consent includes but is not limited to:

- Donor consent process
- Donor evaluation process (medical evaluation, psychosocial evaluation, nutritional assessment, financial counseling, pharmaceutical assessment as appropriate)
- Medical evaluation
- Potential financial implications of donation and donor evaluation
- Kidney donor benefits and risks
- Confidentiality

- Living donor follow up
- Prior to initiation of the evaluation process, the Living Donor Advocate will contact the potential donor to introduce him/herself and explain the role of the Living Donor Advocate, contact information, and inform the potential donor that s/he will be interviewing him/her as part of the evaluation process. The potential donor will have a medical and psychosocial evaluation in accordance with UNOS Policy 14. Blood typing and reporting of blood type will be conducted according to UNOS Policy 14.
4. As a part of the living donor evaluation, the living donor reviews and signs the Living Kidney Donor Rights form with the Living Donor Coordinator. Topics covered include but are not limited to:
 - Receipt of payment or other items of value for a kidney is a federal crime
 - Confidentiality of communication between program and donor
 - Surgical procedure
 - Potential risks (medical, physical, psychological, financial and insurance)
 - SRTR outcomes data
 - Need and benefit for follow up care
 - Donor vital data to be collected for 2 years post donation as part of national database
 - Right to withdraw at any time during evaluation process
 5. Potential donor will be presented to the multidisciplinary team for consideration as an acceptable candidate.
 6. Prior to the living donor surgery, the patient reviews and signs the Consent for Living Kidney Donation surgery with the transplant surgeon or his designee along with the anesthesia consent.

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