

**Maine Medical Center  
Maine Transplant Program  
Policies and Procedures  
Non-directed Organ Donor Policy**

**Purpose**

To define the position of the Maine Transplant Program regarding the practice of non-directed (altruistic) kidney donation.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Maine Transplant Program to evaluate all potential living non-directed donors in accordance with principles set forth in the Amsterdam Accord<sup>2</sup> and the practice guidelines coming out of the Non-directed Live-Kidney Donor National Conference in May 2001. Highlights of these consensus statements included particular attention to the evaluation (motivational assessment) and informed consent of the living donor.

**Procedure**

As an active member of the UNOS Kidney Paired Donation program and the National Kidney Registry, the Maine Transplant Program encourages non-directed (altruistic) donors to consider entering regional or national kidney exchange programs. This recommendation is made based on the observation that a single non-directed donor may initiate a living donation “chain” thus maximizing the probability of transplantation for numerous potential kidney transplant recipients. The KPD program is reviewed with the prospective donor and if so chosen the donor will continue with evaluation according to the Living Donor Evaluation Protocol for Non-directed Donors. If the non-directed donor does not wish to enter the KPD program, the donor will be evaluated according to the Living Donor Evaluation Protocol for Non-directed Donors.

The emotional and physical well being of living donors before and after surgery continues to be of paramount importance. All such individuals are carefully screened from emotional, psychological and medical perspectives in order to determine that the proposed donation is appropriate. Non-directed donors will be evaluated according to MTP Living Donor Evaluation Protocol for Non-directed Donors.

- Medical suitability will be determined similarly to that of directed donors using our Living Donor Selection Criteria.
- Psychological suitability will be examined carefully for appropriate motivation and psychological health. Potential donors will be evaluated by both the Independent Living Donor Advocate and also by a consulting psychiatrist in order to ascertain to a reasonable level of certainty given the resources available to complete such a review, that there is:
  - The absence of undue pressure and
  - Compliance with the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA, USA) 1972 that stipulates that it shall be “unlawful for any person to knowingly acquire, receive, or otherwise transfer any human organ for valuable consideration for use in human transplantation.”
- Informed consent of non-directed donors shall be consistent of informed consent of all living donors and emphasize the ethical and practice guideline issues described below and consistent with the National Kidney Foundation Conference 2001.

**Consistent with the Non-directed Live-Kidney Donor National Conference in May 2001 Ethical and Practice Guidelines, Maine Transplant Program has taken the following positions on:**

**Kidney Solicitation**

The Istanbul Accord (referenced below) is a non-binding position paper prepared by transplant professionals within the international arena that recommends that organ donor solicitation be outlawed.<sup>3</sup> No such binding

statute exists within US law. We have taken the position that living kidney donor solicitation has the potential for abuse. Furthermore, the risk of inappropriate financial transactions (in violation of NOTA) may be increased when non-directed donations derive from such non-traditional sources. Nonetheless, the opinion of the Ethics Committee was that there is no “a priori” ethical violation in using kidneys from solicited donors.

### **Non-directed Donor Expression of Selection Preference for Kidney Recipient:**

All Living Non Directed Kidney Donors will be educated about of all their donation options including:

1. Participating in Kidney Paired Donation Programs (either National or Local at Maine Transplant Program).
2. Donating to a Maine Transplant Program candidate waiting for a deceased donor kidney according to Policy 14.6.B: Placement of Non-directed Living Donor Kidneys

Once their Donor candidate decision is made this will be documented in the electronic medical record. The Maine Transplant Program will assure donor candidate that the kidney allocation will take place according to above described UNOS regulations.

### **Prisoners as Non-directed Donors**

Prisoners will not be considered for non-directed donation due to potential motivational issues, logistical problems (transports, surveillance, etc.) and heightened risk of infectious disease transmission to recipient.

### **Principles of Anonymity**

The MTP is committed to maintaining anonymity of both donor and recipient. Consequently, should both donor and recipient be treated at MMC, the program will take extra precautions as available to ensure anonymity. MTP will also emphasize recipient’s informed consent that life-long anonymity cannot be guaranteed, especially in circumstances where the non-directed donor involves media attention. Similarly, because of such a risk of violating recipient anonymity with a donor interested in media attention, MTP will decline any potential non-directed donor seemingly interested in media attention.

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