

**Maine Medical Center
Maine Transplant Program
Policies and Procedures
HCV+ to HCV- Kidney Transplantation**

Purpose: To define the process for consideration and acceptance of candidates, patient education and Consent, and follow up after transplantation

Policy: It is the Policy of the Maine Transplant Program to safely and selectively offer HCV+ deceased donor kidneys to HCV- candidates who are determined to benefit from reduced waiting time, are clinically eligible, and have fully consented to the procedure.

Procedure:

1. Candidates may be considered for HCV+ donor to HCV- recipient kidney transplantation if they:
 - Meet transplant program criteria for transplantation
 - Are considered low immunological risk
 - Must be protected against Hepatitis B (Hep B Surface Antibody positive)
 - Ages 18-50 years
 - cPRA < 20
 - Adequate waiting time, likely to receive an offer within the next year
 - Have documented absence of liver disease
 - Have been fully educated and Consent to the procedure
 - Agree to post transplant testing and treatment for HCV
2. Potential candidates will be identified during at the Readiness Meeting. If a candidate is considered a potential recipient for a HCV+ kidney, s/he will be referred to the MMP Gilman Clinic for education on HCV, and a diagnostic evaluation for the presence of liver disease. Updated labs and any relevant testing results will be provided with the referral.
3. The candidate will be brought back to MTP for a physician/coordinator meeting to discuss HCV+ kidney transplantation risks and benefits, and confirm agreement to be listed as a candidate for a HCV+ kidney offer. The candidate will sign a Listing Agreement to be a candidate to receive a HCV+ kidney.
4. Upon candidate agreement, s/he will be updated on the UNOS waiting list by the RN Coordinator as accepting a HCV+ kidney offer. The RN Coordinator will also note this in the Organ Acceptance Criteria and Specialty comments sections of Epic.
5. The transplant surgeon or his/her designee will obtain the candidate signature for a HCV+ kidney in the HCV+ to HCV- Recipient Consent. Post-transplant testing (HCV RNA NAT) will occur weekly for a minimum of 30 days.
6. Antiviral therapy will be initiated within one week of positive NAT result and will be provided by MMP Gilman Clinic.
7. The recipient will continue to follow post-transplant visit protocols at the MMC Transplant Program.

Original Date: 3/21/22