

MY CHOICES: *Kidney Transplant*

As a kidney patient, one of your treatment options is a kidney transplant. Not everyone is a good candidate for transplant, but you always have the right to request referral and evaluation. If your kidney doctor determines that you are a good candidate for transplant, you will be put on the waiting list. The new kidney will come from another person* and will take over the renal function in your body. One transplanted kidney can do 50–85% of the work of two working kidneys. When considering this option, remember that a kidney transplant is one of your treatment *options*; it is not a cure for kidney failure.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Kidney Transplant

Advantages

- ✓ Your overall health and quality of life will likely improve.
- ✓ You may be less tired and have more energy.
- ✓ There are no special diet or fluid restrictions.
- ✓ You may be able to return to work.
- ✓ You have more freedom because you no longer need dialysis.

Disadvantages

- ✓ You have to take anti-rejection medications daily.
- ✓ You may have side effects from the medications, including weight gain and changes in body image.
- ✓ Some portion of the anti-rejection medicines you have to take after the transplant, which can be expensive, may not be covered by insurance.
- ✓ There is a small risk of losing kidney function in the first year, experiencing an acute rejection episode, or having complications following the surgery.

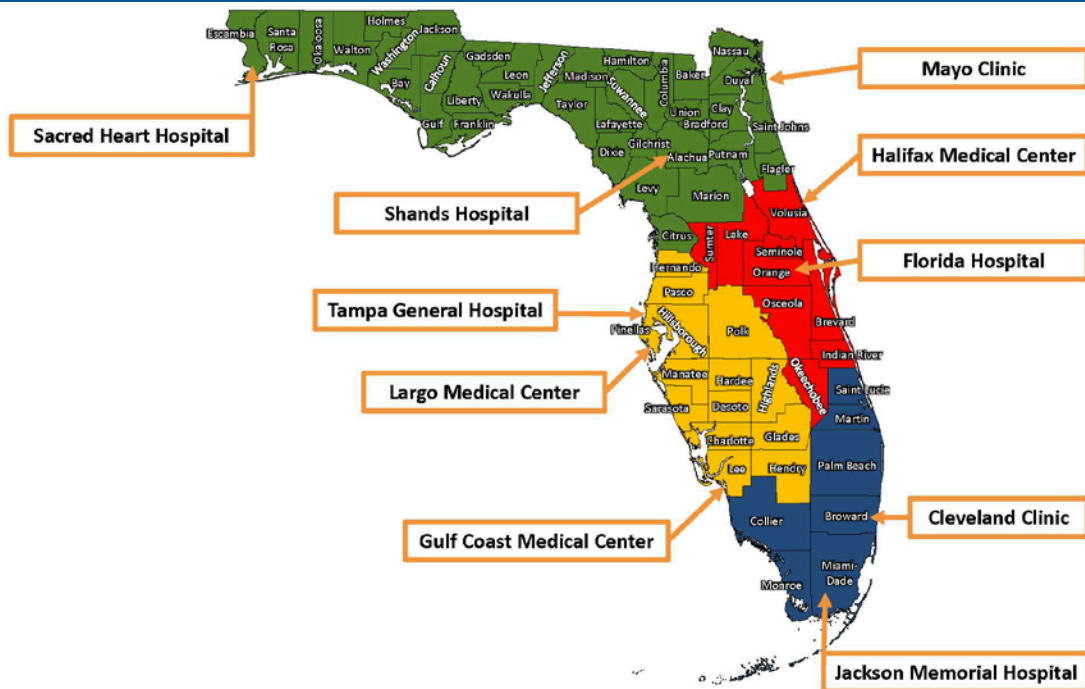
*Types of Kidney Donors

Deceased Donor <i>(Cadaveric)</i>	A deceased donor has died but has donated his or her organs, including the kidneys, for transplant. Kidney patients who do not have a living donor can wait on the national organ transplant waiting list to get a deceased donor transplant. The average wait time for kidney transplant in Florida is two to three years.
Living Related Donor	A living, related donor kidney comes from a blood relative, such as a parent, sibling, or an adult child. Receiving a kidney from a living related donor is considered to be the best transplant option due to decreased risk of rejection. A donor must be evaluated by the transplant center to ensure he or she is in excellent health, well informed about transplantation, and that they are offering their kidney willingly. In most cases, there is no waiting time after the evaluation for a living, related donor transplant.
Living Unrelated Donor	A living, unrelated donor has no blood relation to the person receiving the kidney. The living, related donor, generally a spouse or a friend, must be evaluated (as described above) by the transplant center. There is usually no waiting time after the evaluation for a living, unrelated donor transplant.
Kidney Donor Exchange	If your kidney donor is approved for a living donation but is not a blood/tissue match with you, you and the donor may be able to join a living donor exchange program. Your donor would give his or her kidney to someone at the top of the deceased donor waiting list and after the transplant, you would be moved up on the waiting list to a position equal to that of the individual who received your donor’s kidney. This could significantly reduce the waiting time for you to receive a donor kidney.

How and Where Do I Start?

- ✓ Talk with your kidney doctor or facility social worker to let them know that you are interested in a kidney transplant.
 - If you are not a candidate, your doctor will explain why.
 - If you are a candidate, your doctor will make a referral to the transplant center of your choice.
- ✓ The transplant center will:
 - Do further evaluation and testing to determine if a kidney transplant is right for you.
 - Explain why you may not be selected as a transplant candidate.
 - Discuss possible donor options if you are a candidate.

Florida Has Ten Medicare-Certified Kidney Transplant Centers



Cleveland Clinic — Transplant

2950 Cleveland Boulevard, Weston, FL 33331
954.659.6001

Florida Hospital Transplant Center

2501 North Orange Avenue, Suite 514, Orlando, FL 32804
407.303.2474

Gulf Coast Medical Center — LMHS Transplant

13681 Doctors Way, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239.343.0442

Halifax Medical Center

303 North Clyde Morris Boulevard, Daytona Beach, FL 32114
386.947.4650

Jackson Memorial Hospital Transplant Center

1801 NW 9th Avenue, Highland Prof Building, Miami, FL 33136
305.355.5000

Largo Medical Center — Transplant

West Bay Drive, Suite 301, Largo, FL 33770
727.588.5728

Mayo Clinic Transplant Center

4500 San Pablo Road, Jacksonville, FL 32224
904.956.3309

Sacred Heart Hospital — Transplant Center

5149 N. 9th Avenue, Suite 246, Pensacola, FL 32610
352.265.0111

Shands Hospital — Transplant Center

1600 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32610
352.265.0111

Tampa General Hospital Transplant Center

409 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33606
800.844.9302

To file a grievance about the care you are receiving at your dialysis facility, contact Network 7 at 800.826.3773.