

## Types of Kidney Transplant Donors

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Patients can get a new kidney from:

- a living donor **or**
- a deceased donor

### Living Donors

A living kidney donor is a person who gives one of his or her kidneys to someone who has renal failure. Family members, spouses, close friends, anonymous people and others can be a living kidney donor.

Generally, a living donor must be healthy. There are many medical tests that the donor needs to complete before becoming a living donor.

The next section describes 4 types of living donors:

- List exchange living donor
- Paired exchange living donor
- Altruistic anonymous living donor
- ABO incompatible living donor

### List Exchange Living Donor

A list exchange living donor is a person who gives one of his or her kidneys to a person on the waiting list designated by the Transplant Program. In exchange, the intended recipient is given priority status on the deceased donor transplant list.

For example, a husband would like to donate a kidney to his wife. His wife's blood does not match his blood type. The husband then gives one of his kidneys to a person on the waiting list that matches his blood type. In return his wife is put at the top of her blood type waiting list.

### Paired Exchange Living Donor

This happens when a living donor and kidney recipient have blood types that do not match. They are paired with another living donor and kidney recipient who do match.

For example, 2 living donors each want to give a kidney to a person they love but their blood types do not match. The 2 donors switch recipients so each recipient gets a kidney that matches their blood types.

## **Altruistic Anonymous Living Donor**

This happens when a person gives his or her kidney to someone they do not know. This type of donation is made purely out of selfless motives.

## **ABO Incompatible Living Donor**

This happens when a living kidney donor's blood type does not match the kidney recipient's blood type. Since there are medications and treatments that decrease the risk of kidney rejection this type of donation is now a standard option of care at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

## **Deceased Donors**

A deceased donor is a person who is close to dying or has died and has indicated that he or she would like to donate kidneys. A person's Substitute Decision Maker is involved in this decision as well.

The next section describes 3 types of deceased donors:

- Heart beating deceased donor
- Non heart beating deceased donor
- Expanded criteria deceased donor

### **Heart Beating Deceased Donor**

This donor is a healthy person who has an irreversible brain injury. For example, this can happen after a motor vehicle accident, heart attack or stroke.

### **Non Heart Beating Deceased Donor**

This is when a kidney comes from a person who is pronounced dead after his or her heart stops beating. The kidney must meet special criteria before it can be used.

Many research studies support using a non heart beating donor kidney. The outcomes are similar to using a heart beating deceased donor kidney.

### **Expanded Criteria Deceased Donor**

Donors can now include older people and people who have certain medical conditions or other factors that are linked with decreased kidney function. For example, a kidney can come from a person with diabetes or high blood pressure.

Research studies have shown that getting this type of kidney is better than waiting a long time for an ideal donor kidney.