

Is a Kidney Transplant Right For You?

How transplant centers decide

Ask your nephrologist if a referral for a transplant evaluation is right for you

- Transplant is the best treatment, but for some patients, transplant may be too risky, or not likely to be successful, or not likely to help someone live longer
- Transplant centers have guidelines for deciding if a patient is a good transplant candidate.



Other reasons why a patient might not be eligible for a transplant

- These reasons may differ at each transplant center, or for each patient's situation
- Could include—
 - Being very overweight
 - Recent history of cancer
 - Other medical issues
 - Not enough insurance
 - No support for care after surgery

You are not a eligible for a transplant if you—

- Have severe heart and blood vessel disease that would affect the success of the transplant and your survival
- Have a widespread untreatable infection
- Have incurable cancer
- Are now using tobacco
- Are unable or unwilling to follow a treatment plan (includes drug or alcohol abuse)
- Are unable to give informed consent (not capable of making decisions)

If you are not eligible for a transplant now, things could change so that you might be eligible in the future.

For example—

- Medical problems like infection, cancer, or heart disease could be treated and improve
- You could work harder on following your treatment plan
- You could quit smoking or lose weight
- If you are turned down at one transplant center, you have the right to be evaluated at another center