

## Kidney Transplant Evaluation

*What to expect—*

### The evaluation is how the transplant team decides—

- If you are healthy enough for a transplant
- How you will deal with the challenges that come with a transplant

### Getting started

- **Start early**—Takes several months to get everything done
- You don't have to be on dialysis to be evaluated— you can be on the list when your eGFR is 20 or lower
- First, ask your nephrologist if transplant is right for you
- If it is, ask your nephrologist to refer you to a transplant center
- Your medical records are sent to the transplant center

### Many tests and exams to schedule

- **Get it done**—finding time for appointments is hard, but the sooner you finish your evaluation, the closer you are to your goal
- Blood tests for tissue typing to find the best match for a successful transplant
- Screening for cancer based on your age and history (mammogram, colonoscopy, Pap smear, PSA test, etc.)
- Tests to see if your heart and blood vessels are healthy
- Dental exam and dental work to fix any problems that could cause infection
- Other tests based on your medical condition



### Meeting with the team at the transplant center

- A transplant surgeon and transplant nephrologist will examine you
- A nurse coordinator will teach you about the transplant process, surgery, medications, and living with a transplant
- A social worker will evaluate your readiness for transplant and will help you with practical planning for transplant and care afterward
- Your insurance is reviewed to make sure you have coverage for transplant and for the medications you'll need in the years ahead

### After everything is completed—

- The transplant team decides whether to approve you for a transplant
- The team may ask for further tests or exams before making a decision
- You and your nephrologist are notified in writing of their decision
- If you are approved, you are placed on the waiting list and/or can move forward with a living donor transplant
- If you are not approved, you are informed of the reason
- If you are not approved, you have the right to be evaluated at another transplant center