

AURORA ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER

KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

(414) 646-2550

Indications for Kidney Transplantation

- End stage renal disease or chronic kidney disease.

Absolute contraindications to kidney transplantation

- Uncontrolled infection / AIDS
- Active malignancy limiting short term survival.
- Inability to comply with complex medical regimen.
- Significant psychosocial issues that would adversely impact graft or patient survival.
- Active or recalcitrant substance abuse.
- Deemed high risk from a cardiovascular standpoint or EF < 35%.

Relative contraindications to kidney transplantation

- Significant systemic illnesses
- Hemoglobin A1C >9%
- Untreated coronary vessel stenosis >70%
- CABG or coronary stenting within the past 6 months
- EF <45%
- Significant peripheral or visceral vascular disease
- Smoking
 - Smoking cessation may be required if there is evidence of end organ damage including cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease, visceral iliac artery atherosclerosis or other risk factors present.
- Active substance abuse. Each case will be evaluated by the Selection Committee on an individual basis.

Candidates will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis

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EVALUATION PROCESS

In order to be deemed a transplant candidate, a medical and psychosocial evaluation must be done to make sure transplant is the right option for you. The evaluation starts with an initial appointment for you to meet with the members of the transplant team. Transplant team members include:

- Transplant Coordinator
- Transplant Nephrologist
- Transplant Surgeon
- Transplant Pharmacist
- Financial Coordinator
- Social Worker
- Physician Assistant
- Registered Dietitian

The transplant team requests that you complete the required evaluation **within 6 months** from the initial visit. If you do not complete the evaluation within the specified time period and do not contact our office to discuss status, you may become inactive.

Some patients may be referred to other specialists for further evaluation of existing medical conditions.

If you do not have a primary care physician, this is a good time to get one. You will need to check with your insurance company for a list of physicians. If you need help choosing, please talk with your current doctors.

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EVALUATION PROCESS

Many tests are done to determine if you are suitable for transplant. Your medical evaluation could reveal conditions that the transplant center must report to governmental authorities.

Some or all of the following tests may be included in your evaluation process:

- Blood tests
- Chest X-ray
- CT scan
- EKG
- Echocardiogram
- Stress Test
- Left heart catheterization
- Coronary Angiogram
- Colonoscopy
- Mammogram
- Pap Smear
- Dental exam

***Note:** All testing can be repeated at ANY TIME if you are experiencing new health issues or if it is recommended by the physician.

Your transplant testing could reveal abnormal results or testing that could lead to the need for further medical work-up. If this occurs, your transplant coordinator will discuss it with you.

Once you have completed all the testing and consultations, your transplant nephrologist will present your case to our multidisciplinary committee. Our committee consists of all the transplant team members listed on this handout. The committee reviews your case in its entirety and discusses your candidacy. If the committee approves you for listing, your transplant coordinator will place you on the waitlist.

Some insurance plans require the transplant center to submit documentation of the committee approval before approving coverage for listing. If this is the case, your transplant coordinator will submit the appropriate documentation and keep you updated on the process.

Once you are waitlisted your transplant coordinator notifies you, your nephrologist and dialysis center (if you are on dialysis).