Heroes Wanted: Apply to be a Living Kidney Donor.

We are thankful to everyone who takes the first step to be a hero and give the gift of life through organ donation.

Why choose ChristianaCare?

- We are the only adult kidney transplant program in Delaware and many nearby communities. We care about our patients and provide excellent, personalized care.
- We have highly skilled, nationally known transplant surgeons.
- National MAGNET designated hospital & continuously ranked by U.S. News & World Report top 100 hospitals in the country.
- We are Medicare and United Network for Organ Sharing approved.
- Virtual visits are available for your safety and convenience.
- We offer travel/parking convenience:
  - Located off I-95 in Newark, DE.
  - Close to home for convenience with pre- and post-donation appointments.

Take the first step

Any person who wants to be a Living Kidney Donor needs to contact the transplant office themselves either by phone 302-623-3866 or by filling out the application on the website at www.christianacare.org/kidneytransplant (click on “Interested in Living Donation”).

The individual who needs a new kidney cannot apply for a person to be a donor. Each potential donor must apply on their own.
Advantages of Living Kidney Donation for the person receiving the kidney (recipient)

- Shorter wait time for kidney transplant because the person does not need to wait for a donor from the waitlist.
- Living donor kidneys work better.
- Living donor kidneys last longer.
- Convenience of planned surgery and recovery.
- If the donor is not a blood, tissue, or height/weight match to the intended recipient, paired kidney donation may be an option.

What is paired kidney donation?

- Paired Kidney Donor (PKD) Exchange is a list of people who need a kidney and potential donors. If a donor is not a good match for their intended recipient, they can donate to another person who is a match. The person they wanted to donate to will receive a kidney from someone who is compatible.
- Even a compatible donor/recipient pair can participate in the Paired Kidney Donor (PKD) Exchange to gain the added donor lost wage/travel reimbursements offered through the exchange program.
- An individual does not need to have an intended recipient to donate a kidney and save a life. When they donate into the exchange, they will receive a voucher for any individual who may require kidney transplant in the future.

Who can be a living donor?

A person must be at least 18 years old and in good health to be a possible Living Kidney Donor.

It is a federal crime for donors to receive any payment for donating an organ.

Living Donor Evaluation Process

ChristianCare’s Transplant Team follows federal rules that guide the referral, selection, and evaluation of a person to be a Living Kidney Donor. This helps ensure a safe donation process.

The evaluation includes:

- Detailed education about the living donation experience
- Complete medical history review
- Blood and urine samples
- CT/Renal scan
- Physical exam and other tests as needed

The team of medical professionals consists of:

- Transplant Surgeon
- Nephrologist-kidney doctor
- Living Donor Coordinator
- Social Worker
- Dietitian
- Financial Coordinator
- Independent Living Donor Advocate (ILDA)

Who pays for the donation?

The whole medical workup and surgery is paid for by the insurance of the person who receives the new kidney.

The person who receives the kidney, the donors, and their families may be able to have some lost wages, living, and travel expenses repaid.

Our Transplant Social Worker will look for the financial grants that are available.

Living Donor Surgery

There are about 5,000 living kidney donation surgeries done in the United States every year.

Risks: The transplant team will carefully explain and discuss risks specific to kidney transplant, in addition to the risks associated with any major surgery with the donor.

Recovery: Hospital stay is usually 2-3 days. Most donors return to full activity in 4-6 weeks depending on the activity level the donor will be returning to after surgery.

Life After Kidney Donation

Our transplant team monitors Living Kidney Donors for follow-up for two years after surgery.

It is important that people who are living kidney donors live a healthy lifestyle and have yearly physicals to stay healthy.

People who are living kidney donors can live full and active lives after donation.

Living donation means a functioning kidney is taken from a healthy person and placed into another person whose kidneys have failed.

After the transplant operation, both the donor and the recipient can return to normal, active lives.