

# Applying For A Transplant (patient information)

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## How do I know if I am eligible for a transplant?

To find out if you are eligible for a kidney transplant, first talk with your physician. For some people, a kidney transplant may not be an option due to other medical problems.

### **Some of the most common reasons you would not be eligible for renal transplant include the following:**

- Significant cardiovascular disease
- Active malignancy or history of cancer within the last five years
- Alcohol and drug dependency or abuse
- Psychiatric (Mental) disorders that are not controlled by treatment
- Non-compliance with medication and physician treatment recommendations
- Obesity (Overweight patients will be evaluated by the Transplant Surgeon and weight reduction programs may be recommended before the medical evaluation can be initiated or completed.)
- Severe liver disease
- Severe lung disease
- Active infection

## Do I need to be on dialysis before I can get a transplant?

You do not have to be on dialysis to be evaluated for or receive a transplant. However, your kidney function (creatinine clearance) must be less than 20.

## How do I chose a center and apply for a kidney transplant?

First, talk with your physician to discuss if you are a potential candidate for transplantation. If you are, you will need to apply to the transplant center of your choice. The choice of the transplant center is a decision made between you, your physician and your insurance company. Many insurance companies have contracts with specific hospitals for transplantation. You may call the customer service number on your insurance card to get this information. You may call the transplant center for specific information as to the number of transplants performed, outcome statistics, waiting times, etc. ***Information about transplant facility statistics is also available on the UNOS web site @ unos.org.***

Your physician's office or dialysis center may have the transplant applications. You may also access the application packets from this website.

### **What happens once I send in my application?**

Upon receipt of the transplant application, the Pre-Transplant Group will forward the application to the Transplant Center and to DNA Billing Department. They will obtain financial approval from the insurance carrier for the medical evaluation. This financial approval process can be lengthy, depending on the type of insurance, type of transplant, etc. Patients should be aware of the fact that this financial approval process can be as short as a few days and as long as several months.

Following financial approval verification, the patient will be contacted by one of the Pre-Transplant Coordinators or Secretaries to discuss scheduling the medical evaluation.

### **Can I go see or tour the transplant center I have chosen?**

You can contact the transplant center and arrange for a tour of the facility.