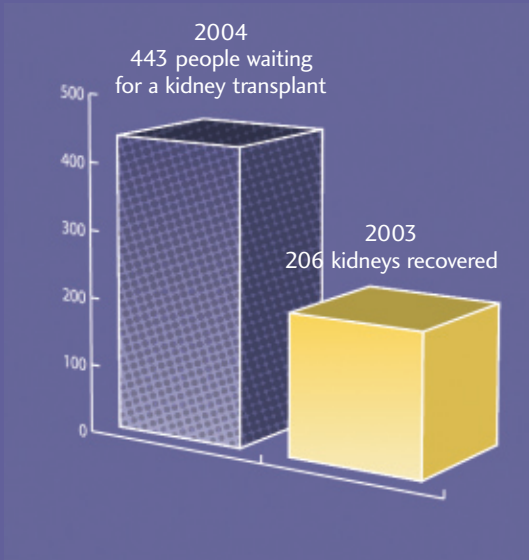


Kidney Transplants Needed in the Midwest Transplant Network

Service Area in 2004



Midwest Transplant Network Background

Midwest Transplant Network, formerly Midwest Organ Bank, is an Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) which opened in October 1972. The not-for-profit corporation serves Kansas City, Columbia, St. Joseph, Joplin, Topeka, Salina and Wichita. Its mission is to provide quality transplantation-related services to maximize availability of organs and tissues to the community. Midwest Transplant Network strives to educate and inform the community about the need for organ and tissue donation.

Midwest Transplant Network's Role

Midwest Transplant Network's role is to provide an opportunity for healthy individuals to donate an organ to someone in need. Midwest Transplant Network and local kidney transplant programs want to provide individuals within our community the opportunity to become a "Good Samaritan" by donating a kidney to an unknown recipient. This is an expansion of the current "Living Donor" practice, which utilizes friends and relatives for organ donors.



SHARING LIFE . Living Donor Program

Midwest Transplant Network functions as an advocate for the donor in the same way the transplant centers support the recipients in the transplant process. They will provide initial screening, support to the donor and referral to the transplant center of the potential recipient.

Need More Information?

If you are interested in participating in the Living Donor Program or would like more information, please contact:



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Living Donor Program

The number of patients waiting for kidney transplants far exceeds the number of organs donated.

Midwest Transplant Network is exploring ways to address the critical shortage of available kidneys.

Who Can Donate?

Living kidney donors must be:

- Physically fit and in general good health
- Free from cancer, diabetes, kidney, lung and heart disease
- Between 25 and 60 years of age

Family support is essential from the initial evaluation through post-operative recovery.

How Can I Donate?

Potential donors must first undergo a psychological and emotional evaluation to ensure they are making their decision freely.

Once those tests are completed, a physical exam, blood and urine tests, screening for hepatitis, HIV and blood type are conducted.

Potential donors should remember that kidney transplants aren't guaranteed. Strong feelings can surface during the evaluation and donation process, especially if the transplant outcome is not as hoped.

Where Would the Surgery Take Place?

Surgeries are performed at the recipient's transplant center.

Kansas City, Mo., transplant centers:

Research Medical Center
Saint Luke's Hospital
The Children's Mercy Hospital

Columbia, Mo., transplant center:

The University of Missouri Hospitals and Clinics

Kansas City, Kan., transplant center:

The University of Kansas Hospital

Wichita, Kan., transplant center:

Via Christi-St. Francis Medical Center

What is the Transplant Process?

A nurse and social worker from Midwest Transplant Network meet with potential donors and their chosen support person for an initial screening. After the screening, the local transplant list is accessed to identify a recipient. The donor is referred to the recipient's transplant center for more evaluation.

How is the Transplant Performed?

Kidneys can be removed with one of two techniques:

Laparoscopic – Minimally invasive, this procedure offers less pain, smaller scars, shorter hospital stays and a faster return to daily activities. Currently, not all potential donors are laparoscopic candidates. Also, not all centers offer the procedure.

Traditional open surgery – A larger incision is made to remove the kidney. While it is a shorter operation, the recovery time is slightly longer.

The transplant surgeon will discuss the options with each potential donor during the evaluation.

What are the Risks?

No surgery is free of risk. Some possible side effects to transplantation surgery include:

- Pain
- Infection
- Reaction to general anesthesia
- Bleeding (which could result in a need for blood transfusions)

Please note: The transplant team will discuss risks in detail with each potential donor.

How Long does it Take to Recover?

Typically, a donor is in the hospital three to five days after surgery; however, every case is different. Most living donors report a four- to eight-week recovery.

Who Pays for the Surgery?

The recipient's insurance or Medicare will be asked to pay for the donor's pretransplant evaluation, surgery, hospital stay and any complications directly related to the donation. This does not include lost wages during the recovery period. Some employers allow this time to be taken as sick leave. Travel, lodging and childcare expenses need consideration as well. No monetary payment will be provided to donors or their family members.

Can I Meet the Recipient?

Midwest Transplant Network protects the identities of donors and recipients and facilitates written contact between donors and recipients. Both parties remain anonymous to each other until they mutually agree to establish contact by mail or in person.