

Kidney Selection Criteria

The Transplant Team makes a decision regarding the patient's suitability for transplant following established selection criteria and based on the patient's current medical and psychosocial status as well as the results of required testing.

Absolute Medical / Surgical Contraindications for Kidney Transplant Include:

- Severe Coronary Artery Disease
- Severe Heart Failure
- Severe Peripheral Vascular Disease
- Chronic infections (unresolved)
- Advanced Pulmonary Disease
- Advanced Liver Disease
- Metastatic Cancer
- Morbid Obesity with a BMI over 45 (Patients with a BMI of 42-45 will be assessed individually. There may be patients with a BMI less than 42 who may not be candidates based on the weight distribution or other factors. These cases are carefully considered by the transplant physicians and surgeons.)
- Age 81 or older (Age 75-81 must have a living donor and meet clinical criteria)
- Any combination of medical co-morbidities that unacceptably raise the risk of graft loss or patient death.

Absolute Psychosocial Contraindications for Kidney Transplant Include:

- Chronic proven non-compliance with medication and/or prescribed treatment(s)
- Poor social support including absence of confirmed caregiver during the immediate post-transplant period
- Absence of funding for transplant procedure and/or medications
- Does not meet the definition of Resident Alien (deceased donor transplant only)
- Active substance abuse*
- Untreated psychiatric condition(s), including suicide risk
- Severe psychiatric illness, uncontrolled with medication*

*Psychiatric consultation/clearance may be indicated

Relative Exclusion Criteria

- Any combination of medical co-morbidities that unacceptably raise the risk of graft loss or patient death.

Kidney Transplant Protocol

Any adult patient with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), either on dialysis, or approaching dialysis, may be considered for kidney transplantation using the following as a guide for referral.

1. CKD with a GFR \leq 20 mL/min
2. All patients must complete the Candidate Education Program and evaluation/clearance by the multi-disciplinary team
3. In order to become active on the Transplant List, patients must complete the following tests:
 - Medical history
 - Social Work/Nutrition evaluations from dialysis unit, if applicable
 - Recent complete monthly bloodwork including Hepatitis profile, HIV, CBC with platelet count
 - PSA (for males age 50 and older)
 - Chest x-ray (done within the last year)
 - EKG (done within the last year)
 - All diabetic candidates must have a nuclear stress test and 2-D echocardiogram
 - All candidates over 55 must have a nuclear stress test and 2-D echocardiogram
 - All candidates over 50 must have a colonoscopy
 - All female candidates between the ages of 50 - 74 must have a mammogram every two years
 - For patients who test positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV, specific testing and protocols apply

Transplant Referrals can be made online at:

www.rwjbh.org/kidneytransplantreferralform

**Or by calling:
973.322.5938**

Pancreas Selection Criteria

Patients interested in a pancreas transplant must first undergo evaluation for kidney transplantation.

The Transplant Team makes a decision regarding the patient's suitability for transplant following established selection criteria and based on the patient's current medical and psychosocial status as well as the results of required testing.

Absolute Contraindications for Pancreas Transplant:

Absolute contraindications are the same as for kidney transplantation (see page 1) with the following exceptions:

- HIV infection
- Hep B surface antigen positive
- Anti-coagulation therapy

Additionally, pancreas transplantation may be contraindicated in the presence of advanced, irreversible end organ damage since the benefit of this extensive procedure would be minimal. Examples include blindness, loss of extremities due to peripheral vascular disease, severe gastroparesis, and advanced autonomic and sensory neuropathy.

Recipient Selection Criteria (Simultaneous Kidney/Pancreas Transplant –SPK)

- Type 1 diabetes with C-peptide level ≤ 5 ng/ml
- Recommended BMI ≤ 32
- Type 2 diabetes with C-Peptide level ≤ 5 and insulin dependent with a total 24 hour insulin requirement ≤ 0.8 units/kg
- Age less than or equal to 55 years for Type 1 diabetes, less than or equal to 50 years for Type 2 diabetes
- Type 2 diabetics need Hemoglobin A1C checked
- Chronic Kidney Disease with a creatinine clearance less than or equal to 25
- Minimal abdominal surgery (Acceptable prior operations include PD catheter, appendectomy, and uncomplicated cholecystectomy)
- Negative stress test
- Coronary angiography strongly recommended for patients 45 years or greater
- Coronary angiography strongly recommended for patients with a history of diabetes 20 years or greater
- Psychosocial considerations: patients should be highly motivated and understand what may be involved during post-operative recovery (i.e. the possibility of further operative procedures, re-hospitalization, close follow up in the clinic)
- Financial considerations: Medicare does cover SPK and PAK (Pancreas after Kidney) transplantation in the same way as kidney transplantation. Assessment and screening by the financial coordinator and transplant social worker are necessary to ensure adequate medical coverage as well as for medications and follow-up care required.