

## Did you know?

There are **six** important steps in the transplant process:

1. Patients start the process by speaking with their doctor about getting a referral to a transplant center.
2. Patients are then evaluated for a transplant by the medical team at a transplant center.
3. Patients should begin organizing their support systems (friends and loved ones who will help them before and after the transplant surgery).
4. Patients should also begin developing their financial strategies.
5. If accepted as a transplant candidate, patients are registered on the national organ transplant waiting list. A living donor may also be identified and evaluated for living donation.
6. After transplant, the medical teams manage patients' post-transplant care.



End-Stage Renal Disease  
Network of the Ohio River Valley

### The End-Stage Renal Disease Network of the Ohio River Valley (Network 9)

is dedicated to assisting dialysis and renal transplantation centers in establishing and maintaining high standards of care for ESRD patients. The Network is fully committed to providing support to the patients and providers Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

Further information may be found by visiting our website at [esrd.ipro.org](http://esrd.ipro.org) or by contacting us at [info@nw1.esrd.net](mailto:info@nw1.esrd.net).

To file a grievance, please contact:  
End-Stage Renal Disease Network of  
the Ohio River Valley  
3201 Enterprise Parkway, Suite 210,  
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Patient Toll-Free: (844) 819-3010  
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Web: [esrd.ipro.org](http://esrd.ipro.org)

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# A Kidney Transplant For Any Age



You're never too old to go for a kidney transplant referral.



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(216) 593-0001  
[esrd.ipro.org](http://esrd.ipro.org)

## Transplants and Donors

Kidney transplantation or renal transplantation is the transplant of a healthy kidney into a patient with end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

There are two types of kidney transplants: deceased-donor or living-donor.

Living-donor transplants can be either “living-related” or “living-non-related.” Exchanges and chains are new approaches to expanding the living donor pool. In a paired kidney exchange, recipients who are not compatible with a willing donor—a spouse, family member or friend—swap their donor with another patient’s, with whom they are compatible.

### Better Quality of Life

A kidney transplant can offer a better lifestyle to ESRD patients of all ages.

- ✓ Increased life expectancy,
- ✓ Increased independence,
- ✓ Increased self-esteem, and
- ✓ Better quality of life.



## Kidney Transplant Criteria

A kidney transplant is a treatment option for people on dialysis. However, not everyone who wants a transplant is eligible to receive one. Only transplant center professionals can determine if a transplant is the right treatment option for a patient.

Each transplant center uses its own set of standards for deciding if a patient is a good candidate for a kidney transplant. In some cases, a patient can be turned down by one transplant center, but found to be eligible at another transplant center.

Please visit the Network’s website for additional information on transplant at [www.esrd.ipro.org](http://www.esrd.ipro.org)



## Myths vs. Facts

**Myth:** *I’m too old for a transplant.*

**Fact:** Many people in their 70s receive transplants, as long as they qualify. There have been documented cases of patients in their 80s receiving transplants.

**Myth:** *Rich and famous people get moved to the top of the waiting list, while “regular” people have to wait a long time for a transplant.*

**Fact:** The kidney allocation and distribution system is blind to name, celebrity, social status, or wealth. When a patient is on the waiting list for a donor kidney, what really counts is the severity of his or her illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information. While many cases of celebrities receiving kidney transplants are reported by the media, celebrities have to wait just like everyone else to obtain a donor kidney.

**Myth:** *Organ transplants require blood transfusions—which are against my religion—so I cannot have a kidney transplant.*

**Fact:** There are transplant units that perform bloodless transplants. Speak to your medical team or contact your religious organization to receive information about transplant units that perform this type of transplant.