

Transplant Recipient

Receiving an organ involves serious medical procedures — so choosing to undergo a transplant is a big decision. To make sure you're ready to decide, **use this checklist as you talk with your healthcare providers about becoming a transplant recipient.** It can help make sure you've covered important topics that may affect your decision.

Qualifying and preparing for a transplant

My healthcare providers have informed me of:

- Any tests and consults that are required as part of evaluation to receive a transplant.
- How the decision to accept someone as a transplant recipient is made.
- Implications of placement on the national waiting list for solid organ transplant (the United Network for Organ Sharing, or UNOS, list).
- The commitment a recipient must have to a short-term and long-term medical regimen.

Financial considerations

My healthcare providers have told me about:

- Any financial coverage or obligation I may have as a recipient.
- The possibility that as a transplant recipient, my immunosuppressant drugs may not be paid for under Medicare Part B. (This happens only if the transplant takes place in a non-Medicare-approved transplant center.)

The transplant center

My healthcare providers have informed me of:

- The history of the transplant center and the team members involved in the care of transplant patients.
- All Medicare outcome requirements not being met by the transplant center.
- The transplant center's most recent statistics for number of patients alive and grafts (transplanted organs) still functioning one year after transplant. These statistics are from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) online at <http://srtr.transplant.hrsa.gov>. The statistics have been discussed in comparison with national statistics and what would be expected for this program, given these national statistics.

Rights and alternatives

My healthcare providers have informed me of:

- Alternatives to transplantation (other treatments that might be appropriate for me).
- My right to refuse a transplant at any time.

Talking about... **informed consent**

The conversation you have with your healthcare providers is an important part of **informed consent**. Informed consent is the legal process for learning key facts about a procedure and willingly agreeing to undertake it despite the risks. So as your providers discuss organ transplantation with you, don't be afraid to ask questions. It's important to have all your questions answered before you agree to a transplant.

Procedure, risks, and outcomes

My healthcare providers have given me specific information about the transplant I'm considering, including:

- The surgical procedure.
- Donor issues that could affect the success of the graft or my health as a recipient. These include but are not limited to the donor's history, condition, or age and my risk of contracting human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) or other diseases if they are not detected in an infected donor.
- Risks to the recipient, including but not limited to:
 - Risk of death, infection, rejection of the transplanted organ, bleeding, blood clot formation, cancer, heart disease, renal disease, and other changes in overall health.
 - Impact on family and social life.
 - Psychological stress.
 - Impact on development (for child recipients).
- Available data on the national and transplant center-specific outcomes for recipients.

Source: <http://srtr.transplant.hrsa.gov>