

Living Donor Kidney Transplant:

An Information Sheet for Primary Care Providers

▶ Your patient has expressed interest in pursuing a living donor kidney transplant.

What is a living donor kidney transplant?

A living donor kidney transplant is the transplant of a kidney from a living donor. Advantages of a living donor kidney transplant over a deceased donor kidney transplant:

- Improved success rates
- Shorter waiting times
- Avoidance of dialysis if transplant occurs before dialysis is required
- Surgical date and recovery period is known in advance

As your patient's primary care provider, what is important for me to know?

- Please ensure your patient's basic health and dental care is up to date.
 - See dentist to make sure there are no infections in mouth or teeth
 - Prostate testing for men during routine physical check-ups
 - Pap test for women ages 25-69 as per the BC Cervical Cancer Screening guideline
 - Mammogram for women ages 50-74 as per BC Breast Screening guideline
 - Fecal occult blood test (FIT) if age is over 50 as per BC Colon Screening guideline

- Your patient will be going through extensive testing as part of the referral process to the Provincial Transplant Centre (Vancouver General Hospital or St. Paul's Hospital). You may be requested to assist in organizing certain tests or following up on abnormal tests or tests that require further investigation.
- Your patient, with assistance from their kidney care team, will develop a plan for reaching out to potential living donors. It is your patient's responsibility to actively do the outreach. Asking your patient how the outreach is going will help support the process. Potential donors need to come forward voluntarily without feeling pressure or coercion.
- If your patient does not qualify for a living donor kidney transplant, you will be notified by your patient's kidney care team.

For more information about living donor kidney transplant, please visit the BC Transplant website at: transplant.bc.ca

If you have any questions or would like to know more information about how you can support your patient through this process, please contact your patient's primary nephrologist.