IMPROVING EFFICIENCIES IN YOUR LIVING DONOR PROGRAM

~37M **US adults** have chronic kidney disease, as of 2022[1]

~800K **patients** have end-stage renal disease (ESRD)[2,*]

>541K **patients** are receiving dialysis[2,*]

~96K **patients** are on the waiting list to receive a kidney transplant[3,†]

>25K **patients** received a kidney transplant[4,†]

The Advancing American Kidney Health (AAKH) Initiative aims to **double the number of kidneys available for transplant by 2030**, through strategies such as increasing available options for individuals in need of kidney transplants and reducing financial barriers to living donation.[5]

Living donation has remained flat over the past few decades[3]

- In 2021, living donors only contributed approximately **23%** of all transplanted kidneys in the US[6]
- According to a single-center, retrospective study evaluating living kidney donor (LKD) intake forms from 2016-2019, **6 LKD applicants** were needed to achieve **1 successful donation**[7]

REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE OF THE LKD EVALUATION PROCESS[7,‡]

Single Center | 2,501 LKD Applicants | Retrospective, 3-Year Review

Potential donors who completed each step

Intake Form
N=2,501
100%

67.5% ↘

- **22.6%** no call back
- **21.2%** medical history criteria
- **19.8%** BMI criteria

Immunologic Testing
N=813
32.5%

56% ↘

- **36%** not a match
- **13.2%** asked to be backup donors

Clinical Evaluation
N=358
14.3%

~17.5% ↘

- **37.5%** incomplete workup
- **26.6%** medically disqualified

Committee Review
N=294
11.8%

~36.4% ↘

Donation
N=188
7.5%

FEW POTENTIAL LIVING DONORS MAKE IT TO DONATION.[7]

ONLY 7.5% of those who start the living donor evaluation process make it to donation.[7]

*As of 2021.[2] †As of 2023.[3,4] ‡From a single-center study of data obtained from Cleveland Clinic's Living Kidney Donor intake forms between December 23, 2016, and December 31, 2019. During these 3 years, 3,001 intake forms were submitted; after exclusion of 500 (duplicate/test entries or for intended recipients who were not active on the Cleveland Clinic kidney transplant waitlist), 2,501 intake forms were eligible for evaluation.[7]

BMI, body mass index.

HOW TO INCREASE LIVING DONATION: ONE LIVING DONOR COORDINATOR'S EXPERIENCE

Between 2016-2020, one center averaged ~20 living kidney donors per year[8]...

Transplant centers may expand their living donation programs using recommended strategies

STEP 1 Create a living donor culture[8]

Challenge | Primary focus on deceased donation
Strategy | Change philosophy to focus on living donation

Living Donor (LD) Team ▸ Create an LD pod

- Physician leader
- Donor coordinator
- LD-dedicated recipient coordinator

Weekly LD-focused meeting

- Team support
- Improved communication
- Increased awareness of patient readiness

STEP 2 Expand service capabilities through collaboration[8,9]

Challenge | Weak relationships with referring community and advocacy organizations
Strategy | Partner with an exchange program and the community to provide the following services

- Online registration portal
- Kidney paired exchange
- Remote donation
- Access to donor mentor
- Donations through the voucher program
- Robust outreach program

STEP 3 Streamline the living kidney donor evaluation process[7,8]

Challenge | Extensive donor evaluation process
Strategy | Create a positive experience for the donor

- ☑ Return call within 24 hours of referral
- ☑ Schedule appointment within 2 weeks of initial referral
- ☑ Conduct 1-day donor evaluation with expedited review of results
- ☑ Provide resources and support (eg, access to mentor)
- ☑ Expand intake and selection criteria
- ☑ Broaden insurance acceptance

STEP 4 Incorporate innovative surgical strategies[8,10]

Challenge | Donor preference for less invasive procedures and rapid recovery
Strategy | Implement the following innovative surgical strategies

- Robotic donor nephrectomy
- Single-port donor nephrectomy
- Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocol

...After implementing new strategies, referrals increased 2-fold, and living donor kidney transplants increased 4-fold[8,*]

*There were 909 referrals in 2020 and 1,793 in 2022. Living donor kidney transplants increased from 16 per year in 2020 to 65 per year in 2021.[8]

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