Background on RCH Transplant Services
Riverside Community Hospital (RCH) established its transplant services in 1996 to care for patients in need of kidney, pancreas, or a combination kidney and pancreas transplant. The Transplant Center has performed over 485 transplants to date.

Transplant Services Team

Physician Information
Riverside Community Hospital is proud to have H. Erik Wahlstrom, M.D., on staff as Medical Director of the Transplant Center. Dr. Wahlstrom brings over 20 years of experience in kidney, pancreas and liver transplant surgery as well as general and vascular surgery. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is also a member of the American College of Transplant Surgeons and International Transplantation Society. Dr. Wahlstrom has also been affiliated with some of the most renowned transplant centers in the country including the Mayo-Clinic (Minnesota), Loma Linda University Medical Center and the University of California system.

Experienced Staff
The multi-disciplinary approach of the transplant team is focused to meet the complex needs of our patients. Staff consists of Clinical Transplant Nurse Coordinators, Transplant Social Worker, Transplant Financial Coordinator, Transplant Dietician, Transplant Pharmacist, Living Donor Advocate and Inpatient Nursing Staff.

At the Transplant Center, staff is geared to ensuring that patient’s questions are answered and concerns are addressed. The Transplant team works closely with the referring physician and caregivers to coordinate care for each patient from the initial appointment through the post transplant period.

About Riverside Community Hospital
Riverside Community Hospital (RCH) is proud to provide quality healthcare to the greater Riverside area for over 100 years. RCH’s facility features 375-licensed beds, 1600 employees and more than 400 physicians on staff. Our Emergency Department/Level II Trauma Center is open 24 hours offering immediate assistance to area residents and visitors to the community. RCH major programs and services include the HeartCare Institute, Cancer Center, Transplant services, Neurosurgical services and Women’s and Children’s Center. RCH offers a wide continuum of other healthcare services, such as orthopedic services, inpatient and outpatient surgical services, intensive care, radiology, lab and physical medicine. During the past few years the hospital has made investments of $50 million in facility expansions and equipment upgrades in order to provide the community with more services.

For more information about Riverside Community Hospital:
You may call us at (951) 788-3000 or visit our website at: www.riversidecommunityhospital.org

Location
The Outpatient Transplant Services department is located at 4000 14th Street, which is directly adjacent to Riverside Community Hospital in Riverside, California. Visitors may park in one of two parking areas near this building.
Find Out if an Organ Transplant is Right for You

Generally, a physician or social worker will refer patients to the Transplant Center. Patients, however, may also refer themselves to the Transplant Center. During the initial visit, the various members of the transplant team see patients. They are provided with educational material and information to help them gain a better understanding of the transplantation process. After a thorough medical and social evaluation, the Transplant Committee will determine if a transplant would be beneficial to the patient. Once a decision is made to undergo transplant surgery, the patient’s name will be activated on the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) waiting list.

Where do I get a kidney for transplant?

Kidneys come from a deceased donor or from a living donor. The living donor option offers several advantages, including shorter waiting times and better long-term kidney survival. If you have a willing donor that is incompatible, there are still several ways to find a suitable kidney for transplantation. One option is the living donor paired exchange program. The Riverside Community Hospital Transplant Center is a member of the National Kidney Registry, a program designed to find a suitable living donor within a group of transplant programs. This program is committed to greatly expanding the living donor possibilities. This includes donor pairs, as well as donor chains.

Laparoscopic Kidney Donation

In the case of a living donor, the kidney is removed through laparoscopic surgery. This means a short recovery time for the donor and less interference with the donor’s normal life. Donating a kidney does not increase the risk of future kidney failure for the donor. The donor has no future restrictions on activity nor is the ability to bear children is not affected by kidney donation.

Expanded Criteria Donors (ECD)

Due to the long waiting time on the UNOS waiting list (5-6 years), UNOS is now also offering kidneys from donors that have other medical problems such as high blood pressure, diabetes or older age. All donors are carefully screened to ensure that no transmittable diseases are present. The waiting time for the ECD kidneys is 2-3 years. These kidneys are suggested only for patients who cannot wait on the regular waiting list due to advanced age or illness. The ECD kidneys are not expected to last as long as the kidneys from the regular waiting list. Patients must give specific permission to the transplant program in order to be offered an ECD kidney.

Transplant Surgery/Post-Surgical Care

When an organ becomes available, the patient is admitted to the Transplantation Unit at Riverside Community Hospital. The nursing staff has specific training in the care of transplant patients.

After the transplant procedure is completed the patient will be cared for in the ICU for 1-2 days and then returned to the Transplant Unit. Average hospital stay is 5-7 days. Care is provided by Dr. Wahlstrom and the Transplant Team.

Outpatient Care

The patient is typically cared for in the Transplant Clinic for the initial 2-3 months after surgery by Dr. Wahlstrom. Thereafter, patient care is turned over to the referring nephrologist. The patient is seen in the Transplant Clinic 3 months, 6 months and yearly after the Transplant procedure. In the case of post transplant complications the patient is admitted to the Transplant Unit for further care.