Transplant is Right for You

Find out if an Organ

Background on RCH

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.

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

Find out if an organ transplant is right for you?

Ask your Nephrologists to refer you to the Riverside Community Hospital Transplant Center to see if a transplant is right for you. You may also contact our program directly. During your initial visit, you will meet with various members of the transplant team. They will provide educational material and information to give you a better understanding of the transplant process.

How do I get a kidney for transplantation?

A kidney can be donated by a living relative or friend, or a kidney can be obtained from the kidney waiting list from a person who is a registered deceased donor. Transplantation from a living donor is always preferable, since it usually does not require a long waiting time. If a family member or a friend is willing to donate, we can usually complete workup and proceed with a transplant operation in 2-3 months.

If your living donor is not of the correct blood type, we may be able to arrange an exchange with another donor-recipient pair (Chain Donation). When living donation is not possible, we place you on the waiting list for a cadaveric kidney. This is a kidney from a person who was either a registered donor, or whose family agreed to donation.

How does the waiting list work?

When you are approved for transplantation by the Riverside Community Hospital Transplant Committee, you will be placed on the kidney waiting list. The waiting time counts from the start of your dialysis. Unfortunately, the waiting time on the list is continually increasing since more and more people are developing kidney failure. Waiting time in our area is now around 8 years. The transplant team will work with you to explore all possible options for getting transplanted as soon as possible.

What if I have a family member who wants to donate to me?

What happens after transplantation?

What if I have a family member or friend who wants to donate their kidney to me?

Your family member or friend will be carefully evaluated to make sure that they have no risk for future kidney disease. The evaluation usually takes 1-2 months. If the person is approved as a donor, the kidney is removed using laparoscopy. This technique makes recovery from the procedure much shorter. Most donors return to work without problems within 6-weeks after surgery. Even though kidney donation is a major surgical procedure, it is safe and the donor generally has no significant long-term problems.

What happens after transplantation?

The transplant team will take care of you for the first three months after transplantation until your recovery is complete. You will then be referred back to your Nephrologists for continued care. You will be seen periodically at the Transplant Center for long term follow up. In order to avoid problems, all patients are seen at 2-3 month intervals with lab test, indefinitely. The Transplant Center is always available as a back up to your Nephrologists if problems develop that may threaten your kidney.

Kidney Transplant

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