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.

Pancreas Transplant Program at RCH

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.

Transplant Center at Riverside Community Hospital

4000 14th Street • Riverside, CA • 92501

Main Hospital: 951.788.3000

Transplant Center: 951.684.1415

riversidecommunityhospital.com
Who should have a pancreas transplant?

Pancreas transplantation is performed to cure Type I (insulin-dependent) Diabetes. It is usually performed for diabetic patients with kidney failure. Pancreas transplantation can be performed at the same time as a kidney transplant or after a kidney has already been transplanted. For example, you may have a living kidney donor who wishes to donate to you. We would perform the kidney transplant first and at a later date do the pancreas transplant. Pancreas transplantation is only performed using cadaveric (donors who have been pronounced brain dead) donors.

What will a pancreas transplant do for me?

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We will first make sure that you are a true Type I Diabetic. In other words, you must have the type of diabetes where the pancreas does not make any significant amount of insulin.

The transplanted pancreas will function in the body as a normal pancreas, eliminating diabetes and controlling your blood sugar in a normal way. You will no longer be required to keep a diabetic diet or monitor your glucose. Most patients find this to be a great improvement in quality of life.

There will also be changes in your body after pancreas transplantation. The nerve damage from diabetes will reverse. Vomiting problems, numbness of the feet, and blood pressure control will all improve. Damage to other organs from diabetes will also stop. This includes damage to your transplanted kidney, your eyes, and your blood vessels.

How do I get a pancreas transplant?

When you are approved by the Riverside Community Hospital Transplant Committee, you will be placed on the pancreas transplant waiting list. Waiting time is currently in the 3-5 year range in our area.

What happens after pancreas transplantation?

For the first 6 months, you will be closely followed by the transplant team. After 6 months, you will alternate between seeing your transplant team and seeing your Nephrologists. These visits will occur every 2 months and include lab work.

Riverside Community Hospital’s Transplant Program offers both kidney and kidney/pancreas transplantation. Our patient-centered program offers individualized diagnostic and treatment services provided in a compassionate, safe environment that embraces whole body healing.

Our transplant program is dedicated to providing the most comprehensive treatments for patients where transplant is the best or only option. Our board certified physicians and highly experienced multi-disciplinary transplant team have earned the reputation of providing exceptional, comprehensive clinical services.

For more information and to learn more about kidney and/or pancreas transplant at Riverside Community Hospital, call (951)684-1415 or visit www.riversidecommunityhospital.com.