

Paired Kidney Exchange Scheme

Recipient information

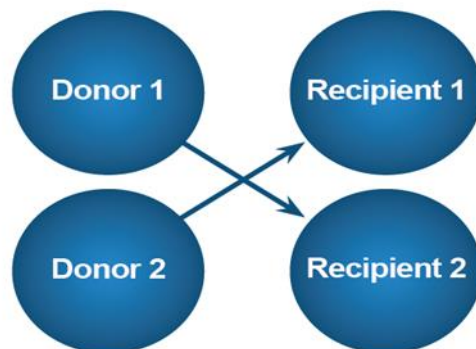
Kidney transplant is usually the best treatment for people with end stage kidney disease. However waiting times for a deceased donor kidney transplant are very long. Living kidney donation has therefore become one of the treatment routes of choice.

Unfortunately, some donor/recipient (D/R) pairs cannot proceed because of

- a positive crossmatch caused by anti HLA (tissue) antibodies
- incompatible blood groups

The paired kidney exchange scheme is designed to allow D/R pairs who are unable to proceed, an opportunity to do so by exchanging a kidney with others in a similar position.

An example of how this might work is:



How the PKE scheme works

D/R pairs who wish to participate in the scheme will have their blood group and tissue typing details entered into a database which is held at the NZ Blood Service Tissue Typing lab in Auckland.

Prior to being formally entered into the scheme, the D/R pair will be asked to sign a consent form. Both the donor and the recipient will need to be accepted as suitable to proceed with the transplant by one or more transplant teams.

Every 2 months a search will be made of those enrolled in the scheme to see if there are any possible paired exchanges. When a possible exchange is found, the potential recipients will be notified if their donors have agreed to proceed and planning will start.

The next step will be to perform a crossmatch between the 2 pairs to confirm that both transplant

How the transplants will be performed

The donor operations (nephrectomies) will be performed at the same time and the transplant operations will be performed as soon as it is practically possible.

The operations may not all be performed at the same hospital and where a kidney needs to be transported this will be co-ordinated by ANZKX* and the transplant coordinator.

Other important information

All D/R pairs will have completed the same evaluation process and have been deemed acceptable for the procedures.

- The kidney you receive will have been assessed as having adequate function.
- The person that will receive your donors' kidney will have been assessed as having a good chance of a successful transplant

The success of the transplant is not guaranteed. However, the expected outcomes will be the same as normal living kidney transplants. It is usual for 97% of living donor transplants to be working at the end of the first year.

Paired kidney exchanges may be difficult to arrange and every effort will be made to ensure that everything proceeds as smoothly as possible.

Please be aware that there is no guarantee that a suitable D/R pair will be found for you to exchange kidneys with.

For further information, please contact the PKE coordinator on 0800 717 7777 or discuss with your local transplant team. ANZKX* Australian New Zealand Kidney Exchange

Prepared by Jo Burton, PKE coordinator Feb 2013. updated 15/5/2020