

Paired Kidney Exchange Scheme

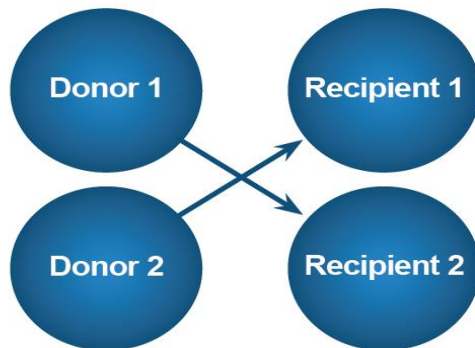
Donor information

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 need 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.

3 x a year 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 donors will be contacted to confirm their wish to proceed. If consent to proceed is given the intended recipients will be contacted. When the four participants have agreed to proceed planning the operations will start.

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

How the transplants will be performed

The donor operations (laparoscopic nephrectomy or nephrectomy) 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 person that will receive your kidney will have been assessed as having a good chance of a successful transplant.
- The kidney your recipient will receive will have been assessed as having adequate function.

You will not be given any information regarding the D/R pair who you are exchanging kidneys with and their identity will remain anonymous.

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. Updated 15/5/2020