



Statement on Volunteer Non-Directed Live Donors

Proposed Distribution Guidelines for Kidneys Recovered from Volunteer Non-Directed Live Donors

While the goal of broad sharing of kidneys from volunteer non-directed live donors is felt to be desirable by the ASTS Ad Hoc Committee on Living Donation, the current reimbursement regulations place the financial burden for evaluating potential donors solely on the shoulders of the evaluating hospital. The ASTS Ad Hoc Committee on Living Donation favors modification of these reimbursement policies which would, in turn, remove a potent disincentive for broader sharing. At this time, however, **it is the committee's recommendation that organs recovered from volunteer non-directed live donors be allocated to recipients on the UNOS waiting list as determined by the UNOS match run with priority considered to recipients listed at the donor hospital or entering into a paired donation exchange.**

Although some volunteer non-directed live donors may contact a donor hospital of their choice directly, others will contact an OPO or an organization such as NKF. The ASTS Ad Hoc Committee on Living Donation would suggest that OPOs and the NKF provide patients with a list of transplant centers in the OPO service area which could, and would be willing to, perform the kidney donation and living donor kidney transplant. It is well recognized that only a fraction of potential living kidney donors actually donate an organ and the costs of evaluating these patients can be significant. Centers which do not wish to participate in the evaluation of volunteer non-directed live donors and the subsequent transplantation of kidneys derived from volunteer non-directed live donors should have the option to not participate in such a program. The names of these programs would not be included in the list provided by the OPO or by NKF.

The committee believes that the above policy would provide a fair and equitable means for patients (donors and recipients) to immediately participate in and benefit from kidney transplantation from volunteer live donors while contemporaneous efforts are made modify reimbursement policies that currently inhibit broader sharing at the local, regional, or national levels.