

Living Donor Transplant Team Members

Transplant Surgeons

Transplant surgeons meet with you during the evaluation process to perform a medical evaluation, explain the surgical process and review the risks of donation. The transplant surgeon performs the transplant donor surgery and works with the medical doctors to manage your care after the donation.

Transplant Nephrologists

Nephrologists are doctors who specialize in kidney disease. They assess your health to decide if donation is a good option. They stay involved in your care after donation.

Nurse Coordinators

Nurse coordinators are responsible for coordinating your transplant care before, during and after donation. They provide ongoing education and help arrange the required testing you need prior to being approved for donation. They will assist you through the evaluation process by working closely with you and communicating with your local doctors and health care facilities.

Clinical Social Workers

Clinical social workers conduct a psychosocial assessment, discuss available community resources, assist with financial resources and work with other members of the transplant team to support you emotionally throughout the donation process. The social worker will provide information and help you complete your advance directives paper work. They are also responsible for educating you about the financial aspects of donation, and are your best resource for help with any insurance related questions. They can also assist you with finding a support group for you and your family.

Living Donor Advocate

The living donor advocate is an independent advocate who is not involved in care of transplant recipients on a routine basis. The advocate's role is to serve as the representative for you, the living donor, to discuss any questions and concerns you may have and to ensure that your rights as a patient are protected; including the right to be free of any feelings of family pressure, undue emotional responsibility, need for recognition or reasons of financial gain. The living donor advocate can communicate with the medical team on your behalf and/or obtain additional information to ensure that your decision is informed and free from coercion.

Clinical Dieticians

Clinical dieticians work with you and your family to evaluate your nutritional status and develop a plan for good nutrition throughout the donation process.

Physician Assistants

Physician assistants assist with inpatient and outpatient care and help organize your discharge needs. Physician assistants monitor your recovery and assist doctors in every aspect of your care.

Surgical Residents and Transplant Fellows

Surgical residents and transplant fellows assist mainly with inpatient care including preparing you for surgery, assisting in the operating room and helping to manage post-operative issues. Surgical residents and transplant fellows work with the surgeons and other team members to prepare you for discharge.

Discharge Case Managers

Discharge case managers work with you and your family to prepare you to leave the hospital.

Nurse Practitioners

Nurse practitioners assist with inpatient care and outpatient care following your surgery. A nurse practitioner assists the transplant doctor with long-term general health management. A nurse practitioner is available to see you in the transplant clinic on a long-term basis.

Transplant Pharmacists

Transplant pharmacists work closely with doctors, nursing staff and you to ensure you're your medications are used correctly. The pharmacists work with the rest of the transplant team to find the best way to diminish the side effects you may have due to medicine used during donation. They also help with managing medication schedules.

Inpatient Transplant Nurses

Inpatient transplant nurses specialize in the care and treatment of transplant patients during their hospital stay. You will be assigned a primary nurse for your inpatient nursing care who will work with your doctors, coordinators and other health care disciplines to prepare you for your discharge.

Transplant Clinic Nurses

Transplant clinic nurses care for you during clinic visits and assist with numerous outpatient procedures. The clinic nurses provide care and support for you during your recovery period after procedures, and assist in setting up required follow-up care. They also provide ongoing education for you and your family.

Office Support Staff

Members of the transplant office support staff provide phone triage to coordinators and other staff and assist in management of outpatient medical information. They help coordinators manage patient lab results and daily patient issues and concerns.

Pastoral Care

Chaplains help many patients and families receive comfort and meaning from their faith during illness recovery. Our chaplains provide spiritual and emotional support and perform sacraments. Faith and medicine opportunities are provided at the hospital chapel. Catholic and Protestant services are held on Sundays.

Other Doctor Consultations

UW Hospital and Clinics have many specialized expert doctors that can be consulted to work together to provide the best care possible. Infectious disease, dental, endocrine, cardiology, hepatology, gastroenterology, dermatology, urology and rehabilitation experts are just a few of the teams that are available to assist in your care.

Other Services

Other services are available to provide assistance to you and your family. For example, interpreter services can be made available for anyone needing translation services. Housing assistance can help you and your family, should temporary housing be needed.