



IMPORTANT INFORMATION
FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT WAIT-LISTED PATIENTS

EXTENDED CRITERIA DONOR (ECD) KIDNEYS FOR OLDER
KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

As you know the demand for kidneys from deceased organ donors far outweighs the available supply. This means that each year many patients on the kidney wait-list either die waiting for a suitable organ, or become too sick to be eligible to receive an organ. In addition, the longer one waits for a kidney, the less successful is the transplant once it occurs. In the Greater Toronto region the average wait-time for a kidney transplant is between 5 and 10 years.

The type of organ donors available has also changed over the years. The average donor age is increasing. In 2008, for example, more than 1 in 3 deceased organ donors in the Toronto region were 60 years of age or older. While these kidneys continue to be carefully selected, they cannot last as long as kidneys from younger donors.

Over the last few years (since 2006) the Transplant Program at St. Michael's Hospital in conjunction with Trillium Gift of Life, has allocated kidneys from older *donors* (**also called Extended Criteria Donors, or ECD**) to older *recipients* who have consented in advance. This program has been extremely successful. Patients who signed up have received transplants much faster than those not on the ECD list, sometimes **saving 2-4 years of waiting time!**

What is the benefit for you for receiving a kidney from an older donor?

The answers are the following:

- 1) There are fewer older recipients than there are older donors. This means older recipients who agree to get a kidney from an older donor will get a kidney more quickly.
- 2) Older recipients will benefit more than younger recipients from getting a kidney quicker since they are more likely to become too ill or even die while waiting on the regular list.
- 3) Older recipients are more likely not to require a second transplant, as compared to younger recipients, which means that even if an older recipient receives an older kidney with a shorter life, this kidney is likely to last their entire lifetime.

Due to these facts, the Transplant program at St. Michael's Hospital is implementing the following policy:

All patients 65 years of age and older who are waiting for a kidney transplant will be automatically be placed on the ECD wait-list.

However there are many criteria for allocating kidneys so you will continue to remain on the regular wait-list as well. Thus if an available younger donor kidney is a match for you, you may still be eligible to receive that kidney.

No recipient will be forced into this decision. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE PLACED ON THE ECD WAIT-LIST, THEN YOU MUST NOTIFY THE TRANSPLANT OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. You must do this by returning the attached form to the transplant office by mail or fax.** Please call Meriam Jayoma-Austria at (416) 867-7460 X8179 or 416-867-7460 X8436 to verify that your form has been received and that you are now removed from the ECD list.

BEYOND THIS ACTION YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE AT THIS TIME.

It is important that you fully understand this information. If you require further clarification about this policy please do not hesitate to contact Meriam Jayoma at the above listed number.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr Jeff Zaltzman
Director Transplant

Dr. Ramesh Prasad
Transplant Nephrologist

Meriam Jayoma-Austria,RN
Transplant Coordinator

WITHDRAWAL FROM ECD PROGRAM

I have read the above information. I understand the benefits of being on the ECD list, however at this time I would rather **not** be considered for an ECD kidney

PRINT FULL NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

ADDRESS

DATE OF BIRTH: DAY/MONTH/YEAR _____ / _____ / _____

Please return this form by mail or fax.

MAIL TO:

St. Michael's Hospital Transplant Program
Attention: Meriam Jayoma-Austria, RN
61 Queen St. East, 9th Floor
Toronto, ON, M5C 2T2 Canada

FAX: 416-867-3678