



## **Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola Kidney Transplant Selection & Referral Criteria**

The basic criteria for kidney transplant selection include the presence of irreversible kidney failure. Candidates for renal transplantation should have end stage renal disease or be close to inevitably approaching end stage renal disease (ESRD). Therefore, candidates do not have to be on dialysis to be considered for transplantation. It should be anticipated, however, that these candidates would require dialysis in the near future. Because of the long wait times on the deceased donor waiting list, it is reasonable to list candidates for transplantation before they reach end stage renal failure.

At Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola Kidney Transplant Program, we address every patient individually, and begin by evaluating a completed referral form submitted by a referring physician.

In addition to using kidney transplant criteria to determine eligibility for a transplant, there are contraindications that will exclude a patient for kidney transplantation (absolute contraindications) include:

- Body Mass Index (BMI) over 39.9
- Anyone over 72 years of age
- Anyone under 18 years of age
- Uncontrolled malignancy
- Active bacterial and fungal infection (exclusive of minor infection such as urinary tract)
- Severe, uncorrectable cardiovascular disease
- Inability or unwillingness to comply with the expected medical regimen
- Severe, uncorrectable peripheral vascular disease
- Active illicit drug use or active alcohol abuse
- Inadequate social support
- Inadequate financial resources to afford care post-transplant
- Uncontrolled psychiatric illness

There are also conditions that may exclude a patient for kidney transplantation (relative contraindications), depending on the patient and the degree of illness. They include:

- Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than or equal to 35
- Extensive medical record review contraindications as well as recommendations from other medical providers
- Current and ongoing tobacco use (cessation required)
- Noncompliance with dialysis treatment regimen

To learn more about Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola's kidney selection criteria and guidelines, contact us by calling 850-416-1080 and speaking with the RN Coordinator.

***Remediable Conditions***

Candidates with remediable conditions or issues such as inadequate social support or financial resources; or medical conditions like morbid obesity or smoking will be given goals that if attained would allow for consideration for transplant. If the patient meets these goals the evaluation process can resume. The patient will be given a clear explanation of needed remediation for consideration of transplant.

***Multidisciplinary Patient Selection***

All patients will be presented at the Medical Review Board (MRB) after their initial evaluation visit and anytime thereafter as needed. This is a multidisciplinary forum attended by transplant nephrologists, transplant surgeons, transplant coordinators, social workers, dietitians, pharmacists, and financial counselors. Other medical and surgical consultants may attend as necessary.

The purpose of the MRB is to review and discuss patients that have undergone a kidney transplant evaluation. This group is responsible for decisions on patient listing for kidney transplantation, review of patients already listed as needed, and discussion of listing parameters with United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). All disciplines have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion regarding this decision. The results of the MRB discussion will be conveyed to the patient and referring physician in a timely fashion.

The selection criteria are reviewed at least annually.

Race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation are prohibited by our program to be used in the selection process.