



Banner
University Medical Center
Tucson



Living Kidney Donor Transplant Program

Organ transplantation is, in many ways, a matter of supply and demand. With approximately 119,000 people on the United Network for Organ Sharing's national transplant waiting list, it can take up to a decade or longer for a matching deceased donor organ to become available. For patients experiencing chronic kidney disease and end-stage kidney failure, living donors can be the difference between life and death. As one of the most comprehensive and longest-running transplant programs in the Southwest, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson is home to an active and ever-expanding living kidney donor program. Here, ordinary individuals become miracle makers, giving transplant recipients the unparalleled gifts of hope and good health.

Benefits of living kidney donation

For patients living with kidney failure, a transplant provides immediate health benefits. Those benefits are magnified when the transplanted organ comes from a living donor. Within hours of transplant surgery, the new kidney begins flushing toxins from the body. Health complications brought about by kidney failure slow or begin to reverse, and the organ recipient's energy level increases. The patient no longer needs to schedule life around dialysis appointments. Evidence also shows that transplanted kidneys that come from living donors have double the life expectancy of deceased donor kidneys, and the rejection rates are far lower. For donors, giving this once-in-a-lifetime gift adds meaning to their lives.

**Banner – University
Medical Center Tucson**
Living Kidney Donor Program
1501 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85724

More Information

Office hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday thru Friday
Phone: 520.694.7365 or
Fax: 520.694.2580
BannerHealth.com





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Donor candidates

Data shows siblings have a one in four chance of being genetically identical, making them natural donor candidates. However, the pool of potential living kidney donors is much larger, extending beyond immediate family to include friends, neighbors, colleagues and even complete strangers. What unites these individuals is a desire to make a difference in the lives of those for whom a transplant is the preferred treatment option.

In addition to being a clinical match with the organ recipient, living kidney donors must be 18 or older, in good overall physical and mental health, and have no current or past issues related to:

- Kidney disease or dysfunction
- Hypertension
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Cancer

Donor eligibility

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson embraces the opportunity to help save and change lives through living kidney donor transplants. The hospital provides ongoing physical, emotional and psychological care and support for donors and recipients alike. It has a dedicated living donor kidney team of specialists who work directly with potential living donors throughout the process. They help guide donors through the transplant journey, ensuring they fully understand all aspects of the donation and transplant process as well as the potential risks and long-term health needs.

Transplant surgery

Living kidney donation involves laparoscopic surgery to remove a kidney from a healthy individual for the purpose of transplantation. In most cases, donors are released from the hospital within 48 hours. Banner – University Medical Center Tucson provides ongoing care and support for living donors, including medical visits every six months for a minimum of two years. Medical costs associated with the donor's pre-transplant screening, testing, surgery and follow-up care are usually covered by the recipient's health insurance.

Multidisciplinary care

Living kidney donors and recipients benefit from the shared expertise of a multidisciplinary transplant care team that includes:

- Transplant physicians
- Transplant donor surgeons
- Tissue typing (HLA) clinical specialists
- Living donor nurse coordinators
- Independent living donor advocate
- Pharmacists
- Nutritionists
- Social workers
- Financial counselors

Transplant resources

Learn more about organ transplantation from the following trusted health resources:

- Banner Health – bannerhealth.com/services/transplant
- Donate Life – organdonor.gov
- Donor Network of Arizona – dnaz.org
- Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network – optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/
- Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients – srtr.org
- Transplant Living – transplantliving.org
- United Network for Organ Sharing – unos.org
- National Kidney Foundation – kidney.org

