

Why are living donors needed?

More than 1,400 people in Wisconsin are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant.

For kidney or liver patients who need a transplant, a living donor may end what could be a lengthy wait for an organ from a deceased donor.

Who can donate?

Anyone 18 years or older in good physical and mental health may volunteer to be considered as a potential living donor. A person does not need to be related to or even know a specific patient who needs a transplant.

Living kidney donation is possible because we can live a healthy life with one functioning kidney.

Living liver donation is possible because only a segment of the liver is transplanted. The remaining lobe regrows to the size your body needs. This happens for both the donor and the recipient.

Is living donation safe?

Every donor goes through an extensive evaluation to confirm if donation is a safe option for them. The majority of living donors live active, healthy lives after donation.

Is there a financial cost to being a living donor?

Medical costs related to living donation are covered by the recipient's insurance.

Living donors may incur personal expenses related to child/dependent care or loss of wages during the donation process. The transplant center can provide information on programs that may provide financial assistance.

How long does it take to recover after living donation surgery?

Kidney donation – The average recovery time for a kidney donor is 4-6 weeks. The donor will have a ten pound lifting restriction for six weeks post-surgery.

Liver donation – The average recovery time for a liver donor is 8 weeks. A donor will be in the ICU immediately after surgery and stay in the hospital for about 7 days. The donor will have a ten pound lifting restriction for six weeks post-surgery.

How can I help someone I know who needs a kidney or liver?

Find out the specific transplant center where the person is receiving care and contact that transplant center directly. Your inquiry will be kept confidential.

Can I donate to someone I don't know?

To be a humanitarian, or 'non-directed' donor, you should contact a Wisconsin transplant center. A list is available at donatelifewisconsin.org on the Donate Life Wisconsin website.

To locate a transplant center outside Wisconsin, visit optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/about/search-membership.

It's your decision!

As a potential donor, you have the right to change your mind at any point—no questions asked. You will have the support of an independent donor advocate throughout the process. All communication with the transplant care team is confidential and not shared with the recipient.



Find us on 
#DonateLifeWisconsin