

# Types of Kidney Donation



There are several paths to kidney donation: which one might be yours? Read more below!



## Directed Donation

A donor gives an organ directly to a specific person, often a friend or family member. Typically a donor learns of the need, then signs up for screening/testing/donation (1).



## Non-Directed Donation

Often also called "altruistic" donation, this type of donor gives an organ to an unknown recipient. Usually a donor registers with a transplant program of choice, is screened/tested/approved for donation, then is anonymously matched with a recipient (1).



## Paired Donation

Two or more pairs of donors/recipients that are incompatible "trade" donors so each receives an organ from compatible donor (1).



## Chain Donation

A "chain" of donations, usually starting with an altruistic donor who gives their kidney to a compatible recipient who has a willing, but incompatible, donor. That donor in turn gives their kidney to another recipient that may have a willing, but incompatible, donor who can continue the "chain". This type of donation, also called a "nonsimultaneous, extended, altruistic donor ("NEAD") chain was originally pioneered at Johns Hopkins Medical Center (2), but many such chains are now facilitated by the National Kidney Registry.



## Voucher Donation

This **National Kidney Registry** program allows altruistic donors that want to start a donor chain to create vouchers for up to five family members. If one of the people named as voucher holders eventually needs a kidney, NKR will prioritize them for a living kidney donor. This allows altruistic donors to donate while also protecting their family in the unlikely event they need a kidney (3).