



## FACT SHEET: Living Kidney Donors Save Lives

*The benefit of good health is often taken for granted. For many people suffering from chronic kidney disease (CKD), this is far from reality.*

- 97,000** → There are approximately 97,000 people on the national kidney transplant waiting list.\*
- 3,000** → Over 3,000 new patients are added to this list every month.\*
- 13** → While waiting for a kidney transplant, 13 of these people die each day.\*

The kidneys are organs located on either side of the spine. Healthy kidneys clean and filter blood while also controlling blood pressure. Kidney damage is often caused by other health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, autoimmune and genetic diseases among other problems.

Damaged kidneys lose the filtering ability which can cause nausea, weakness, high blood pressure, and other life-debilitating effects. When kidneys fail to work properly for longer than three months, this is called chronic kidney disease (CKD). There are no cures for CKD.

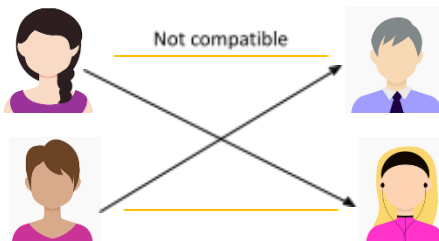
The treatment for end-stage kidney disease is either dialysis or kidney transplant. Donated kidneys come from either a deceased or living donor. However, only three in 1,000 registered as deceased donors die in a way that permits organ donation.

### There are three types of living donors:

**Directed donors**, those that give to someone they know



**Paired donors**, donors swap kidneys to make a compatible match



**Non-directed donors**, those that give to a stranger



### There's a tremendous need for living kidney donors, and increased benefits:

- Potential to save up to 8 lives
- Ability to schedule the transplant at an accessible time
- Better genetic matches may decrease the risk of organ rejection
- Living donor kidneys usually work immediately and longer
- No age limit on becoming a living donor



For more information on becoming a living donor, please visit:

<https://unos.org/transplant/living-donation/>\*

<https://www.kidneyregistry.org/for-donors/i-want-to-learn-more-about-living-kidney-donation/>