

# Ontario's Referral Guidelines for Adult Kidney Transplantation

Version 7.0

# Adult Kidney Transplantation Referral Guidelines

## PATIENT REFERRAL GUIDELINES:

The following are guidelines which a Health Care Provider would utilize to refer a patient to a transplant program for assessment. Referring Regional Renal Programs (RRPs) must have robust regular processes to assess patients' eligibility for kidney transplant referral, at least annually.

### Conditions for Referral

The guidelines identified below are the agreed upon conditions for which a patient should be referred for a kidney transplant assessment.

- 1) **Chronic Kidney Disease:** Referral for kidney transplantation should be considered for patients with progressive Chronic Kidney Disease.
- 2) **End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD):** Referral for kidney transplantation should also be considered for patients with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

In addition, referral for kidney transplant evaluation should be considered for patients only if the following requirements are met:

1. Absence of active malignancy (metastatic cancer)
2. Absence of a critical inoperable valve disease
3. Absence of active irreversible ischemic progressive heart disease
4. Absence of severe (LVEF < 20%) left ventricle dysfunction (unless possibly uremic in origin)
5. Patient has consented to transplant

### Timing of Referral

In general, pre-emptive kidney transplantation is the preferred form of renal replacement therapy and should be encouraged where feasible.

- Patients receiving dialysis should be referred as soon as their medical condition stabilizes.
- For patients who meet the conditions but are not receiving dialysis:
  - Refer any patient who is expected to require dialysis within the next year.
  - Refer patients with potential living donors if they meet any of these criteria:
    - eGFR less than 15 mL/min per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.
    - ≥ 25% chance of requiring renal replacement therapy within 2 years, as assessed with a valid equation, see [www.kidneyfailurerisk.com](http://www.kidneyfailurerisk.com).
    - Expect dialysis will be needed in the next 2 years.

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## Version Control

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<b>Version 1.0</b>	Created May 2011
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<b>Version 3.0</b>	Reviewed March 2018
<b>Version 4.0</b>	Inclusion of Multi-Organ Kidney Referral and Listing Criteria, June 2020
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