How are deceased donor organs allocated?

KIDNEY & PANCREAS

Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) uses an electronic system to allocate organs to patients waiting for an organ transplant in Ontario. There are two steps to this process:

1. All patients on the wait list are reviewed to determine if they are potential matches to the donor.
2. The order in which patients will receive offers is based on their medical profiles.

For more information, visit: www.giftoflife.on.ca/en/transplant.htm

1. Matching

Blood Type
Patient’s blood type is compared to the donor’s for compatibility.

Immune System
Patient’s antibodies are compared with the donor’s to minimize risk of organ rejection.

Other Considerations
As other factors (e.g. height, weight, and medical history) may be unique to a patient and/or donor, transplant medical professionals are responsible for determining if a donated organ is the right match for a patient.

2. Wait List Prioritization

Medical Status
Transplant Programs assess patients to determine how sick they are and assign each patient a medical status, which identifies wait list priority. Paediatric patients, patients who need multiple organs, and/or patients who are rapidly deteriorating may receive higher priority.

Allocation Points
Allocation points determine the order in which patients with the same blood type receive organ offers. Allocation points are given for the following two factors:

Time on Dialysis
The number of days a patient has been on dialysis.

Sensitivity
The sensitivity of a patient’s immune system.