When a kidney becomes available, the computer prints a list of patients based on how long they have been waiting and the match between the donor and recipient. It is unusual for two people to equally match the same kidney, but if this were to happen, and other considerations were also equal, the person who had been waiting the longest would receive the kidney.

Generally, transplant outcomes improve when patients are in the best possible shape, so we encourage you to use the waiting period as a time to lose weight, if necessary. Enrich your personal relationships, to use ways to reduce stress and improve diet and exercise habits. If you are currently a smoker, you should quit smoking as soon as possible. Also it is very important to have your dialysis center or you send a blood sample each month in order to quickly check it against deceased kidneys that become available.

While on the waiting list, you will be contacted periodically to update your initial testing as necessary (determined by the medical staff at our facility). This is a requirement in order to stay active on the waiting list.

Keeping in touch
If you are listed on the recipient waiting list, it is extremely important that the transplant team be able to reach you quickly. If you have a telephone number change, new address or different health insurance, the transplant coordinator must be informed immediately.

Thank you for inquiring about our transplant program
The best way to get complete answers to your individual needs is to have a personal consultation with a clinical transplant coordinator. For more information, please call toll free at 1-866-805-7710 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Grant provided by Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc.
Why a kidney transplant?
The kidneys are two bean-shaped organs located in the
back of the torso, under the last two ribs. Though we
normally are born with two kidneys, only one is required
to sustain the body of healthy people. Kidneys filter the
blood circulating through your body by removing waste
and excess salts, minerals and fluid. If the kidneys are
not working properly due to one or more of the diseases
that can harm them, kidney failure occurs.

If your kidneys are not working properly and dialysis is
required to do their work, you may be a candidate for a
kidney transplant. A new kidney is surgically implanted
in your body, followed by a regimen of medication and
clinic follow-up appointments for the remainder of your
life. However, the recipient of a successful kidney trans-
plant no longer needs dialysis.

What are the different types of kidney transplants?
• Deceased donor transplant.
  When an otherwise healthy person undergoes a traumatic
  event that causes death while their heart continues to
  beat, the undamaged organs may be saved and donated
  (with the family’s permission) for transplantation. With
  the aid of artificial support, any organs scheduled for
  donation keep functioning until they can be implanted in
  the recipient(s).

• Living donor transplant.
  In some cases, patients have loved ones willing to give
  them one of their healthy kidneys. The advantages of a
  living donor transplant include no waiting time and
  improved performance of the transplanted kidney.
  Living donation is such a serious decision that donors
  are encouraged to very carefully consider taking such
  a step.

Who is eligible for a kidney transplant?
Eligible kidney transplant recipients include patients with
• Kidney failure who are either on dialysis or creatinine
  clearance to less than 20cc/minute
• A creatinine clearance between 20 - 35 with significant
  symptoms
• Progressive renal dysfunction where decline in clear
  ance is predictable, such as diabetic nephropathy
• Polycystic kidney disease with a suitable living donor
  available.

Who is not eligible for a kidney transplant?
The following conditions may make a patient ineligible
for a kidney transplant:
• Cancers that have occurred within the past five years
  and cancers that have metastasized
• Recent heart attack, angina at rest or advanced
  heart disease
• Untreated or uncontrolled major psychiatric illness
• Non-rehabilitated substance abuse
• Major infections such as AIDS or current TB
• Current pregnancy
• Age 70 or older.

How are potential transplant patients evaluated?
With a referral from your primary physician, you, as a
potential candidate, are given a pre-transplant evaluation
that includes:
• Personal interview with a member of the transplant team
• Appointments with a social worker and financial counselor
• A complete medical work up consisting of lab tests,
  and/or CT scan, psychological clearance, colonoscopy,
  EKG, as well as a number of other tests

The transplant team reviews the evaluation results. If they
find that you are a good candidate for a kidney transplant
and your financial arrangements are in order, you are offi-
cially listed on the recipient waiting list with the United
Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

The initial evaluation may take at least four hours, six
hours or even longer. If you live out of town, you may pre-
fer to stay overnight near the hospital. An excellent option
for an overnight stay in a compassionate environment is
Nora’s Home, which offers a “home away from home” at a
nominal fee for transplant patients and their families.
Call 1-877-390-4663 (toll free) for reservations.

Since the evaluation process also involves scheduling tests
and other physician appointments, it may take several
weeks to complete your evaluation so you can be added to
the transplant waiting list.

What happens after a patient is placed on the
waiting list?
If you do not have a living donor your name will be placed
on a national transplant registry. This is a list of people
who are waiting for a deceased-donor kidney. Your name,
tissue typing information (your antigens) and blood type
(A, B, AB, or O) are included in your registration on the
computer database.