

Department of Renal Medicine & Transplantation

The National Living Donor Kidney Sharing Scheme

This leaflet explains the National Living Donor Kidney Sharing Scheme (NLDKSS), including the benefits, risks, any alternatives and what you can expect when you come to hospital.

If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

What is the National Living Donor Kidney Sharing Scheme?

If you are thinking about living donation or transplantation but your blood group or tissue match aren't compatible with your donor or recipient, you may wish to know more about the National Living Donor Kidney Sharing Scheme (NLDKSS).

The NLDKSS was created in 2009 and allows donors to donate to someone else in the UK. The donor's intended recipient will receive a compatible transplant from another living donor in return.

We would expect 95% of kidneys from this scheme to be working after three years and a 20 year life expectancy of the kidney. This is similar to what would happen if your donor was a compatible tissue match for you and you received a transplant directly from them.

How does the NLDKSS work?

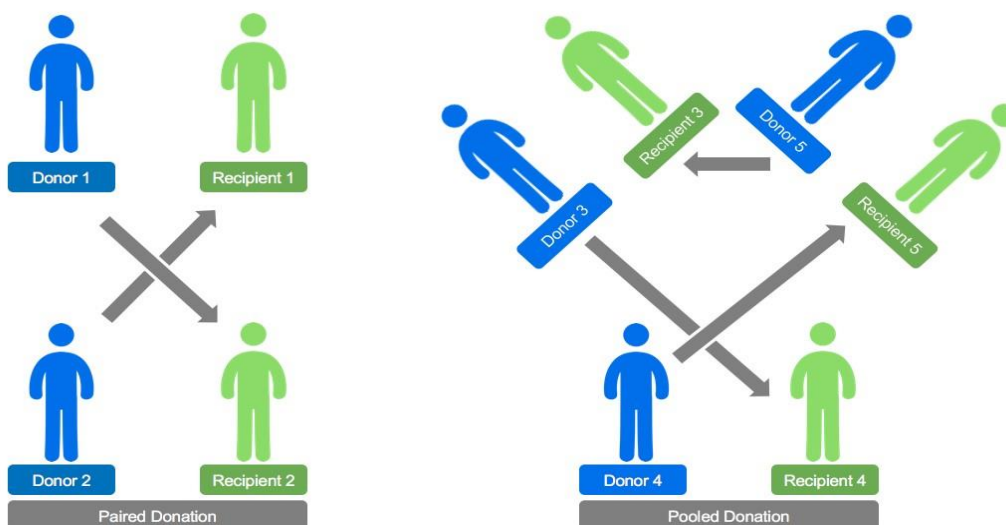
1. If your medical team agrees both recipient and donor(s) are suitable you will be registered in the scheme. A recipient can be registered in the scheme with more than one donor. There is a matching run four times a year managed by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). All donors and recipients who have entered are compared and potential matches identified.

2. The transplant centre is informed of a possible match two days after the matching run and will let you know if you have been matched.
3. You will be asked to come to your transplant unit for a blood test for the initial cross match within two weeks of the run. The donor's blood will be sent to the other matched centre to check that they are compatible with the other recipient. The cross-match test will confirm whether the transplant can proceed safely. If the cross match is positive, then the transplant cannot happen because the kidney will be rejected. We can only proceed if the cross match is negative. If we can proceed, you won't be told where the kidney is going to or from where it is coming.
4. The transplant team will start to organise a date for the operation. Several transplant units may be involved so we may not have the final say on when your surgery will be but we aim for it to be six to eight weeks after the matching run. Please only agree to enter the run if you can be flexible with your schedule during this time.

What are the types of matches?

If a match is found for you, the following combinations may happen:

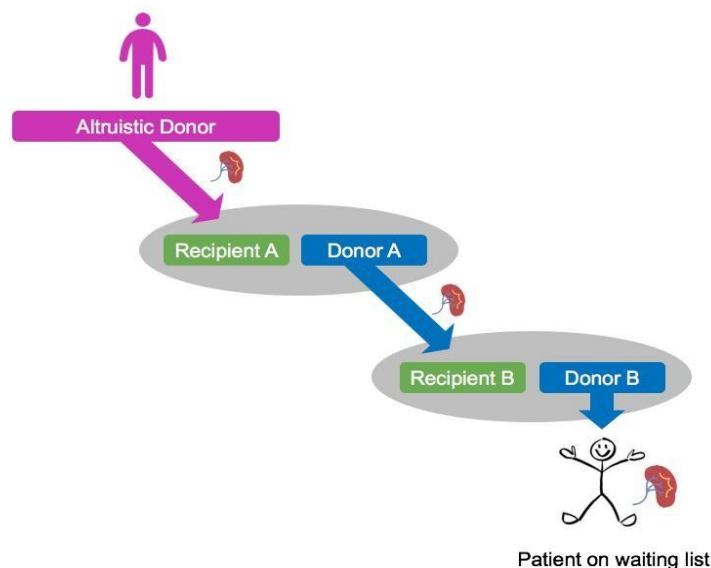
Paired or pooled



Paired donation is when two pairs are involved. Pooled donation is when there are more than two pairs (see below). Donor and recipient surgery takes place on the same day.

Altruistic donor chain

An altruistic donor is someone who wishes to donate a kidney but does not know their recipient. They can be included in the NLDKSS and can start a chain of transplants. This may include several pairs and the surgery may take place on different days. The final recipient is someone on the national waiting list for a kidney transplant. The recipient in each pair in the chain receives the transplant before their donor donates.



What are my chances of a match?

A match depends on the donor and recipient blood group. Other factors, such as the recipient age and antibody level can also affect the chances of identifying a suitable match. The surgeon can give you more information on this when you are reviewed in clinic before being registered in the scheme.

What happens if I don't get a match?

If you are not successful on the first attempt, you can be entered into future runs as many times as you want. If you have four unsuccessful matching runs, we may discuss other options with you, such as a

transplant where the blood group or HLA (human leukocyte antigen) is incompatible.

In an incompatible transplant the recipient needs further treatment and higher doses of anti-rejection medication. This type of transplant is more complex with more potential complications and a poorer success rate than a transplant of a matched kidney from the sharing scheme. Your doctors will explain more.

Asking for your consent

It is important that you feel involved in decisions about your care. For some treatments, you will be asked to sign a consent form to say that you agree to have the treatment and understand what it involves. You can withdraw your consent at any time, even if you have said 'yes' previously. If you would like more details about our consent process, please ask for a copy of our policy.

Useful sources of information

Further information can be found at:

[UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme - ODT Clinical - NHS Blood and Transplant](#)

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the National Living Donor Kidney Sharing Scheme (NLDKSS), please contact the transplant sister, email pretransplant.sisters@stgeorges.nhs.uk or on 020 8725 0305 (Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 4.00pm). Out of hours, please leave a message on the transplant sister's answering machine.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or care. You can contact the PALS team on the advisory telephone line Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

A Walk-in service is available:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm

Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Please contact PALS in advance to check if there are any changes to opening times.

The Walk-in and Advisory telephone services are closed on Wednesdays.

PALS is based within the hospital in the ground floor main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing.

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111 You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones. **Tel:** 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure

everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



Reference: RES_KSS_LP_03 **Published:** December 2023 **Review date:** December 2025