Choosing to Donate

Making the decision to donate can be challenging and should be discussed with your family and loved ones. Your local transplant center can give you information about the benefits and risks in order to make an informed decision. If you have any additional questions about the LDC, you can always contact us.
Igniting Change

The need for organ transplants continues to grow. More Americans are dying every year on waiting lists. Although the number of deceased donor transplants has grown, the growth has not kept pace with the number of patients needing transplants. Living donor transplants typically work better than deceased donor transplants, but the need for a better understanding of who can safely donate and their long-term outcomes remains a major barrier to living donation.

Because Your Life Matters

The Living Donor Collective (LDC) studies the selection of living donor candidates and how donation affects their long-term health and well-being. Transplant programs register everyone being evaluated for living donation at their center with the LDC. Programs can compare their selections with those of other programs. Donors can be compared with individuals evaluated but not donating to understand the effects of donation. In time, we will be able to better inform potential donors about the long-term benefits and risks of living donation.

Who We Are

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) manages the LDC. SRTR is under contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services. The LDC started with 10 participating centers and is gradually expanding to include all living donor programs in the future.

The Process

Registrants will be contacted by the LDC for a brief survey after donation or after they decide not to donate. A small number of participants will be contacted for more detailed information. What we learn from the LDC will be published in scientific journals and made available to patients and families on the LDC website. The identities of individual participants will not be disclosed.

Living Donors in Focus

Assessing living donor evaluations and outcomes will help educate people and transplant programs involved in all phases of the living donation process—from initial evaluation to follow-up care. Under SRTR, the LDC will conduct follow-up evaluations to assess the donor experience, including aspects of their physical and psychosocial well-being.

In providing new information for donors and programs, we can ultimately help people on the waiting list, living donors, and transplant programs alike.