

**Maine Medical Center
Maine Transplant Program
Policies and Procedures
Patient and Caregiver Education Policy - Kidney Transplants**

Purpose

To outline the process by which transplant patients and their families are educated about all aspects of transplantation in order to optimize the success of the transplant experience.

Policy

The goal of patient education at Maine Medical Center is to provide patients and their families with the information they need to actively participate in their health care management and help them make the decision to pursue transplantation, complete workup and develop the necessary skills to care for themselves upon discharge from the hospital after transplantation. Promoting health, empowering the patient with support services, and involving the patient and family in care decisions will improve patient outcomes. Patient education is a multidisciplinary process at Maine Medical Center.

Procedures

1. Transplant candidates receive initial education regarding transplantation as a treatment alternative at their dialysis center. The Transplant Program collaborates with dialysis centers to provide the most current and relevant information regarding transplantation for distribution and review at the centers.
2. Education is an ongoing process and provided according to patient need, level of comprehension, language and cultural preferences, and readiness to learn. Caregivers are included in education at all points in the process as requested and appropriate.
3. Upon referral to the Transplant Program, the candidate is required to complete the Transplant Education class available on line or in person. The class is an overview of all phases of the transplant process, risks and benefits, living donor options, post-transplant requirements, and other considerations such as financial and social support. An assessment of understanding is included at the completion of the course.
4. Education continues during the Transplant Phase. During the evaluation process the candidate completes the *Consent to Participate in the Transplant Program*. This Consent contains additional detailed information about the transplant process, evaluation testing, program availability, risks and benefits, team members, side effects, and post-transplant care and recovery. The RN Coordinator provides this education 1:1 with the candidate which includes a review of organ donor considerations such as DCD, PHS high risk, and high KDPI. Multiple resources are utilized in this process including UNOS materials and internally developed documents. In addition, as the multidisciplinary team completes their evaluation, 1:1 education is provided by each team member including physician/surgeon, RN, nutrition, pharmacy, social work, and financial coordinator.
5. While on the waiting list, candidates are offered additional education by the RN Coordinator, physician, and other multidisciplinary team members. This education is tailored to individual patient needs and readiness for transplantation.
6. During the Discharge Phase, when the candidate is admitted to the hospital, s/he receives education from the inpatient and surgical team regarding the transplant procedure, and recovery process. This education includes a surgical consent process, whereby any relevant organ donor considerations are again discussed and reviewed such as DCD donor, PHS increased risk, etc.

7. Following transplant surgery, the recipient and his/her care givers receive extensive and comprehensive education regarding transplant medications, post-transplant care, and required follow up. This education is completed by all members of the multidisciplinary team including pharmacy, nursing, social work, and nutrition. The Transplant Nurse Practitioner leads the development of the recipient discharge plan which outlines post-transplant information and requirements.
8. The Maine Health Education Department acts as an ongoing resource to the transplant program for the development and maintenance of relevant transplant education materials. This Department provides expertise in learning methodology, process, and health literacy. The Program partners with the Department to create and maintain educational resources and formats that are best suited to meet the needs of our patients, including those with special learning needs.

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Revised Dates: 2/8/10, 2/14/13, 11/4/16, 6/27/17 (was formerly “Patient and Family Education Policy – Kidney Transplants”), 7/18/23

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