

# Using Shared Decision Making to Improve Kidney Transplantation Rates



## ORGANIZATIONS:

Columbia University • Cleveland Clinic • National Kidney Foundation



## TEAM:

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## IMPACT GOAL:

Increase Kidney Transplants and Lower Discard of Deceased Donor Kidneys.



## PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Improving rates of kidney transplantation will improve the survival and lower the cost of care for patients with kidney failure. Achieving this goal requires patient activation on the transplant waitlist in a timely manner and patient empowerment to advocate for a living donor or consider different types of deceased donor kidneys in a manner that is consistent with their preferences.

Shared decision-making conversations are essential to help patients make these personal choices in an effective manner that is consistent with their values and require dialysis clinical staff that are educated and empowered to have these discussions - and can meet patients where they are most often.



## STRATEGY:

The proposal aims to conduct focus groups to develop patient-centered educational material for dialysis center staff about the transplantation process and benefits of each type of transplant, as well as patient communication material that is designed to help patients initiate conversations about kidney transplantation with the dialysis facility staff and clinicians.

These communications (electronic and printed) will allow patients and their dialysis care team to engage in shared decision-making conversations that will help patients get waitlisted, maintain an active status on the waitlist, and think through which organ types they want to consider as they try to improve their probability of transplantation in a manner that is consistent with their personal preferences.



## IMPORTANCE OF SHARED DECISION MAKING:

- Seek patients' participation
- Help patient compare options
- Assess patient's preferences
- Reach a decision with the patient
- Evaluate the patient's decision



## INTENDED RESULTS:

Develop a scalable strategy that, if widely implemented, would increase kidney transplants while lowering discard of deceased donor kidneys.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION,

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