



LIVER PAIRED DONATION

UNOS Liver Paired Donation Pilot Program

How a liver swap works - The diagram below shows the process for entering the Pilot Program and what happens after a swap is found.



Swap process explained

1. Evaluation

Before entering the Pilot Program, the transplant team will:

- Determine the candidate is appropriate to receive a transplant from a living donor
- Determine the donor is appropriate to donate a part of their liver
- Determine that the pair together are appropriate to participate in a liver swap
- Review Informed Consent to participate in the Pilot Program with both the donor and the candidate

2. Paired registered

- The transplant team will register the donor and candidate together, as a pair, into the Pilot Program.
- Donor and candidate pairs will always match at the same time.

3. Finding swaps

Using a computer with special matching software, the Pilot Program looks for swaps based on information provided by the transplant team. Information included in matching donors and candidates includes:

- Donor and candidate blood type
- Donor age
- Donor and candidate size
- The size of the portion of liver being donated compared to the size liver the candidate needs
- Anatomy of the donor liver compared to the needs of the candidate
- Special considerations are given for swap based on:
 - The distance between the matched donor and candidate transplant programs
 - The age of the donor
 - The candidate MELD score
 - If the candidate previously donated a kidney or part of their liver

4. Swap notification and review of donor

- After finding a swap, UNOS notifies both transplant teams
- Transplant team then reviews the donor to make sure they are a good fit for the candidate they are matching

5. Donor and candidate notification

- After the transplant team decides the donor is a good fit, both donor and candidate are notified of the potential swap
- Both transplant teams in a swap must accept the offer before they can notify candidate/donor pair of possible swap

6. Travel options

In most swaps, the donor will travel to their matched candidate hospital. Transplant team will provide donor with information on their matched transplant hospital and details of traveling.

7. Donor meets recovery team

Prior to final acceptance of the swap, donor will meet with the matched transplant hospital team, now called their recovery team. This meeting may be virtual or in person depending on the circumstances.

8. Donor may need additional testing

Although evaluated before entering the Pilot Program, donors may need additional testing requested by the recovery team. This testing is to make sure the liver is a good match for the candidate. It also allows the donor and recovery team to get to know each other before surgery.

- Testing may include medical, psychosocial, or both
- Testing may be done at the hospital that entered the donor into the Pilot Program or at the recovery hospital

9. Surgeries scheduled

After donors have met their recovery teams and have any additional testing, donor and candidate surgeries are scheduled.

Both donor surgeries will be scheduled as close to each other as possible. This may be the same morning, a day apart, or a few days apart. How close together surgeries are depend on many factors such as where in the country the matched hospitals are located (it is difficult to schedule surgeries at the same time in different time zones) and different hospitals operating room availability.

Candidate surgeries are schedule to occur after their matched donor surgery.

10. Donor travels for surgery

- Donor will be required to travel to their recovery hospital approximately one week prior to their scheduled surgery.
- Donor- is required to bring a support person with them. This support person will care for the donor after discharge from the hospital and prior to traveling home

11. Pre-op testing

Testing is done for both donor and candidate in the week prior to surgery. This routine testing is to make sure everyone is still healthy enough for surgery.

12. Donor and candidate surgeries

- Donor surgery usually occurs in the morning
- Recipient surgery occurs after the donor's liver is recovered

13. Donor and candidate meet if both agree

If both donor and recipient agree, they can meet before discharge from the hospital. Both donor and recipient must be medically stable to meet.

14. Recipient care after surgery

During the surgical consent process, transplant team will discuss how long a recipient is expected to stay in the hospital after surgery and what to expect for follow up care.

15. Donor care after surgery

Donor must stay near the recovery hospital for about one week after they are discharged from the hospital. This is to make sure that they are doing well and stable enough to travel.

16. Donor and support person travel home

Once cleared for travel, the donor and their support person travel home. The donor will continue to receive any care needed related to the donation surgery. This care may be at the facility that registered them in the Pilot Program or at their recovery hospital. Location follow up care is determined before the donor travels for surgery.