

Living Donor Paired  
Exchange Registry

# **I'M NOT A MATCH FOR MY KIDNEY RECIPIENT. CAN I STILL HELP?**

Answers for Potential Kidney Donors



Canadian Blood Services  
*it's in you to give*



## **YOU HAVE A LOT OF BIG QUESTIONS.**

The Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry may be the answer.

At Canadian Blood Services, we are committed to helping Canadians help each other. By building and operating a national Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry, we aim to help more individuals living with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

The Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry works in partnership with Canada's kidney transplant community – giving incompatible living donors another way to help a CKD patient receive a kidney transplant.

Read on to find out how the National Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry works, and how it may be able to help.

## WHAT IS LIVING KIDNEY DONATION?

The kidney transplants that most people are familiar with are those using a kidney donated by someone who has died – this is known as deceased donation. It is also possible for a healthy living person to donate a kidney – a living kidney donation. Living kidney donation involves a surgery to remove the kidney from a **living donor**. The kidney is then transplanted into a patient who needs a kidney transplant – the **recipient**. You and your recipient are known as a donor-recipient pair.

## WHY CAN'T I DONATE A KIDNEY TO MY RECIPIENT?

You have offered to donate a kidney to someone in need, but blood tests show that you are not a match. This means that your blood types are not compatible or your recipient has proteins in his/her blood (known as antibodies) that will reject your kidney. You and your potential recipient are known as an **incompatible pair** because it is not medically ideal for him/her to receive your donated kidney.

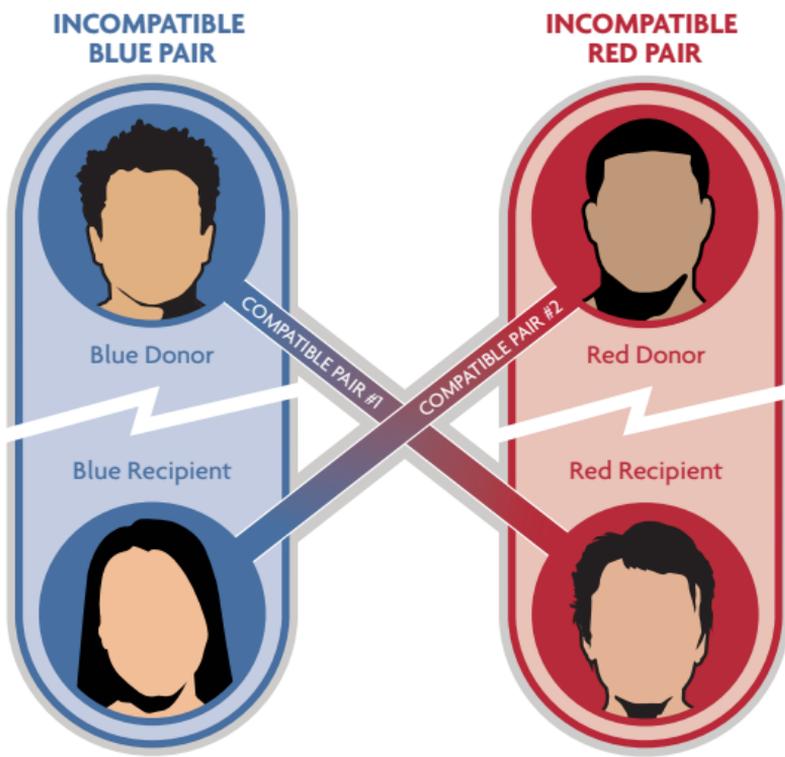
## HOW DOES THE NATIONAL LIVING DONOR PAIRED EXCHANGE (LDPE) REGISTRY WORK?

When an incompatible donor and recipient are interested in a paired exchange, medical tests are done to see if they are healthy enough to participate. If they qualify, their medical information is entered into the LDPE Registry as a pair.

The LDPE Registry is a secure computer database. It contains medical information about incompatible donor-recipient pairs from across Canada. The Registry compares the medical information on all the pairs in the database and identifies pairs that might be able to exchange donors.

### Here's how it works:

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- Let's say you and your incompatible recipient are the Blue Pair. Red Donor and Red Recipient are another incompatible pair.
- Your blood type and cell proteins are a match to Red Recipient, and Red Donor's blood type and cell proteins are a match with your incompatible recipient (Blue Recipient).
- By being in the Registry, the computer can identify these matches. Your doctors can then determine if it is possible to exchange donors. Both recipients will be closer to possibly receiving a transplant.

## **WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF A NATIONAL LDPE REGISTRY?**

The National LDPE Registry gives you another way to try to help your incompatible recipient receive a living donor transplant. The Registry can search a large number of pairs from all over Canada for possible donor exchanges. The chances of finding a compatible donor for your recipient increase if there are more donors to consider. Without an electronic national registry, only a small number of pairs can be evaluated at one time, making the potential matches more difficult to identify.

## **WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF ME?**

To participate in the Registry, you will first need to sign a form consenting to the collection and use of your medical information in the Registry. Your Living Donor Coordinator will arrange for you to complete the qualifying medical tests. If you and your incompatible recipient are both found to be suitable for surgery, your personal and medical information will be entered into the Registry as a pair.

If a matching pair is found, the matches will need to be approved by the transplant teams. The transplant teams will work with all four participants to arrange the donation and transplant procedures. The surgeries for the donors will happen at about the same time on the same day.

Your pre- and post-transplant care will be the same as for any other living donor procedure done at your local transplant centre. Your post-surgery care will be the same as for any other donor operation done at the centre where you have your surgery.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT PAIRED EXCHANGE?

Paired exchange is an established practice throughout the world. Living donor-recipient pairs have been matched in Canada, exchanged donors, and had successful kidney transplants.

A kidney from a living donor is usually healthier, may function better, and may last longer than a kidney from a deceased donor. If your incompatible recipient receives a kidney transplant through this exchange program, he/she will have these same benefits of a living donation and the kidney will be a better match for him/her than your kidney would be.

There is a rare possibility that one of the two transplants might not be successful. In approximately 5% of cases, a transplanted kidney does not work; this is usually due to technical problems. You must consider the remote possibility that your kidney might work well in the other recipient, but that the kidney donated from the other donor to your incompatible recipient may not have the same successful result.

Another consideration is unexpected complications during surgery. There is a rare possibility that once the kidneys have been removed from both donors, one of the recipients may be unable to receive the donated kidney at that time. If this happens to your incompatible recipient, your kidney will still be transplanted into the other recipient as planned. The other donor's kidney will be given to the next compatible recipient on the wait list at your incompatible recipient's transplant centre. When your incompatible recipient is medically able to proceed with transplantation, he/she will be given priority for a deceased donor kidney in his/her local region.

In rare circumstances, if one recipient becomes seriously ill, he/she may never be able to receive a transplant.

## **WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT DONATING THROUGH A PAIRED EXCHANGE?**

Living Donor Paired Exchange is different in some ways from how donation would have worked if you and your incompatible recipient had been a match. Here's how:

- One or more of the matched participants may be required to travel to another transplant centre to accommodate the exchange.
- You will not be giving your kidney to someone you know, but to another person (e.g. Red Recipient) that you may never meet.

Some people may have different feelings about donating a kidney to someone they don't know. It is important to discuss your feelings with your transplant team.

The Registry protects your privacy and eliminates the possibility of unwanted relationships. Matched pairs will remain anonymous before and after the transplants. You will likely never meet the other donor-recipient pair.

However, introductions can be arranged after the transplants, but only under the condition that all four participants agree to have their identities revealed. You are under no obligation, nor should you feel pressured, to meet the other recipient and donor.

## **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

The participation of all donors and recipients in this Registry must be completely voluntary. You, and any of the people involved, are free to withdraw at any time before your surgery.

If you change your mind at any time before your surgery, the continuing medical care of your incompatible recipient will not be affected in any way, but the paired exchange will not occur.

Your transplant team may decide at any time that a paired exchange is no longer appropriate for you and/or your incompatible recipient. If this happens, alternative options will be discussed with your incompatible recipient.



## **Canadian Blood Services –** dedicated to keeping Canadians healthy.

Canadian Blood Services is a national, not-for-profit charitable organization that provides national leadership for organ and tissue donation and transplantation. In addition, Canadian Blood Services manages the supply of blood and blood products in all provinces and territories outside of Quebec. We also oversee the OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network, Canada's network of stem cell donors.

[www.blood.ca/organsandtissues](http://www.blood.ca/organsandtissues)

**1 888 2 DONATE**  
**(1-888-236-6283)**



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