

Living Up to Expectations

Seven KPD transplants performed in September

Editor's note: When we last reported on the OPTN kidney paired donation (KPD) pilot program, the occasion was the first transplants performed as a result of matches made (see Jan.-Feb. Update, p. 20). Regular match runs have been performed since—with encouraging results—but before the transplants can occur much remains to be done to put everything in place.

A future Update will include additional information on the recent flurry of activity, but we wanted to notify you of the good news.

As a result of match runs over recent months—as part of the OPTN kidney paired donation pilot program—in September, a total of seven transplants took place involving seven transplant programs across the country.

A non-directed donor chain resulted in three transplants involving Dartmouth–Hitchcock Medical Center (Lebanon, N.H.), Ohio State University Medical Center (Columbus) and UMass Memorial Medical Center (Springfield).


In a separate three-way exchange identified in August, transplants occurred at Yale–New Haven Hospital (New Haven, Conn.), Hennepin County Medical Center (Minneapolis) and Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore).


A six-way, non-directed donor chain was also identified in August. As of this writing, the first transplant in the chain had taken place, involving a donor at Johns Hopkins and a recipient at the University of Maryland Medical Center, both in Baltimore.

The five additional transplants are scheduled to occur by early November.

AUTOMATED DATA ENTRY SCREENS

The operational guidelines for the KPD program are being updated to reflect current practices and capabilities. Once the guidelines are finalized, they will be distributed to all participating programs and publicized in the monthly member e-newsletter and archive (<http://communication.unos.org>).


UNOS is developing automated data entry screens for participating programs to enter potential donors and candidates, which will include the ability to maintain information so that repeat input is not needed for multiple match runs. The screens should be operational by the end of the year. 

 For additional information about the KPD program, or to seek information about participating, visit the OPTN website, <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov> (resources > kidney paired donation pilot program), or send an e-mail to Ruthanne Hanto, RN, M.P.H., KPD program manager, at ruthanne.hanto@unos.org. (For more on Hanto and her KPD expertise, see article on p. 29.)



KPD BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE

UNOS has developed a brochure on kidney paired donation, the pilot program and how to inquire about participating. The brochure includes answers to questions frequently asked by candidates and living donors who are considering joining the program, and also includes a list of websites they can visit for additional information.

 The six-page brochure, “OPTN Kidney Paired Donation Pilot Program: A Transplant Option for Patients with an Incompatible Living Donor,” is now available at the UNOS Online Store, <http://store.unos.org>. There is no cost for the brochure, although shipping and handling costs may apply for a quantity order.