

## Where to go from here?

1. Talk to your doctor to see if you would be a candidate for desensitization.
2. Talk to your potential donors to see if they are willing to consider paired donation.
3. Contact UNC Health Care with any questions and to schedule a formal evaluation.



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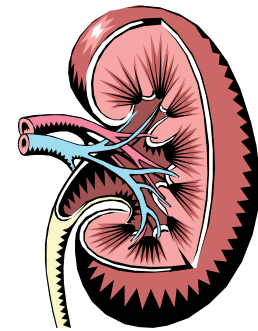
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## Options for Kidney Recipients



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## Desensitization and Paired Donation Program

## Desensitization Process

Inside of everyone's body are proteins known as antibodies. Antibodies are designed to protect your body from 'foreign' tissue. Any kind of infection, previous transplant, pregnancy or miscarriage can result in the body producing these antibodies in response to the foreign invader. If you have too many antibodies, it may be difficult to find a donor who will not be recognized by the body as foreign.



In **desensitization**, the patient is given medication and/or their blood is run through a machine to clean it of antibodies. When these antibodies are reduced, recipients are often able to accept kidneys their bodies would have otherwise rejected.

## Paired Donation Options:

### Who Is a Candidate?

Anyone who has had a positive cross match with their kidney donor or who has a donor who is not blood type compatible with them is a candidate for **paired donation**.



In paired donation, the potential donor is evaluated and if they are found to be a good donor candidate, the donor & recipient information are entered into a database to try and find matches with others who are in similar situations. This can be done on a local level, a regional level or a national level. If a set of compatible pairs are found, the donors will donate their kidney to the compatible recipients.



**Only your transplant surgeon or nephrologist can determine if you are a good candidate for desensitization or paired donation. Be sure to discuss this option with them at your next appointment.**

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