

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Referral Process

Referrals are accepted via fax, through an online referral form, and through internal referrals from Vanderbilt providers and dialysis units.

Necessary forms for a referral:

- Completed referral form
- Legible insurance card
- Recent H&P or Clinic Note
- Recent labs
- Form 2728

Referral Best Practices

- Only provide the requested information within the past year. The longer it takes to sort through unnecessary paperwork, the longer it takes for the patient to begin the wait list process.
- Ensure all copies are legible.

Kidney Eligibility Criteria

- ESRD as evidenced by measured (actual urinary collection) creatinine clearance level or 20ml/min or initiation of dialysis

Kidney Exclusionary Criteria

Absolute Contraindications:

- Morbid obesity (BMI ≥ 45)*
- Age ≥ 80
- Active systemic infection
- Active substance abuse
- Sickle cell disease
- Significant psychiatric illness likely to interfere with compliance
- HIV – CD4 count < 200 or detectable viral load
- Severe cardiac disease
- Active malignancy
- Oxalosis (usually requires liver/kidney transplant)
- Active Hepatitis B infection (detectable viral load)
- Medical noncompliance
- COPD/Oxygen dependence
- Pulmonary Hypertension
- Severe peripheral vascular disease/Vascular calcifications

*BMI <45 can proceed with medical weight loss pathway

*BMI >45 are now referred for bariatric surgery

Relative Contraindications:

- Age ≥ 75 with no living donor. Contact within 30 days
- Morbid obesity (BMI 35-45)
- Inadequate bladder/urinary conduit
- Frailty
- Multiple medical comorbidities
- History of Malignancy
- Psychosocial concerns

Evaluation Process

Prior to Day 1:	Day 1:	After Day 1:
Patients are emailed a link to view transplant education video	Surgeon and/or nephrologist appointment	Contacted by transplant coordinator to discuss next steps to complete evaluation
Itinerary and forms mailed to patient, dialysis unit & referring provider	Chest X-ray	
Patients have phone interview with a social worker	EKG	
Day 2-3	Cancer Screening Guidelines	
Additional testing requested by evaluating	Colonoscopy >45 years old	
Cardiac Testing, Imaging, Specialty Consults, Dental Clearance, Age Appropriate Cancer Screenings	Females: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammogram >40 years old • Pap Smear 21-65 years old, repeat every 3 years or as indicated 	

Selection Committee Multidisciplinary Selection Committee Meeting

- Meets every Monday
- Includes: MD, NP, RN, PharmD, Nutrition, Financial Coordinator, Social Work, Psychiatry, HLA lab
- Patient cases presented/ reviewed/decision by entire team

Outcomes

- Approved for listing
- Declined for listing
- Needs additional testing/ deferred

Notification of Decision

- Patient phone call
- Letter to dialysis unit, referring provider, patient

Next Steps

Patient declined

- Future candidacy dependent on reason for turndown
- Wait time for re-referral noted in letter if applicable
- Referral to other transplant centers

Patient approved

- Listed on waitlist at our center in United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)
- Waitlisting requirement per UNOS: initiation of dialysis or eGFR \leq 20
- No longer using race adjusted eGFR
- May be listed as active or inactive

Patient needs additional testing/deferred

- Deferred- weight loss, adherence contract
- Additional testing must be completed in the allotted time in order if applicable and be re-presented at committee

Patient Status Reports

Vanderbilt sends a patient status report to each dialysis facility at the beginning of every month that includes referred, evaluated, and waitlisted patients.

Review the reports and if there is any incorrect data or if there are any changes in medical condition, psychosocial or adherence issues that may impact transplant candidacy for any of the patients, contact Vanderbilt at 615-936-0695.

Patient transplant education is available upon request for referring dialysis units.

Best Practices

- Maintain a transplant binder to track each patient's referral process, including a tracking sheet with appointment dates and reasons for denial or hold. Create a tab for each patient containing referral and appointment letters and other pertinent information. Templates are available from Network 8 if needed.
- Designate a back-up staff member who understands the transplant tracking process and knows the transplant binder's location and can communicate with transplant centers in your absence.

Contacts:

Referral Intake Coordinators:

Evah May, Mary Alyx and April Collins

(p) 615-936-0695 (f) 615-936-0697

Social Workers:

Mary Schaefer: 615-343-1063

Fara Alviri: 615-875-2882

Sharon Chavez-Matzel: 615-300-8961

Ciera Diaz: 614-999-8177

Briana Williams: (Huntsville campus) 615-818-5509

Dialysis Unit Liaison:

Terrence Hyde: terrence.d.hyde@vumc.org



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