

## Renal Services

# Live kidney donation – United Kingdom Living Kidney Sharing Scheme

This leaflet provides information for people who are considering entering into the United Kingdom Living Kidney Sharing Scheme (UKLKSS)

### What is the UKLKSS?

If a person needs a kidney transplant has someone who is willing to donate their kidney but is not able to donate directly to you because of any of the following factors then the UKLSS is designed to facilitate a transplant in such situations by finding similar pairs in the UK with whom a kidney swap can be done:

- antibodies in their blood which might damage the donor kidney
- the donor has a different blood group to the recipient (exceptions to this will be discussed with your Consultant)
- Or they may not be the best match

If the above applies to you, you could be entered into this scheme which would increase the recipient's chance of finding a suitable living donor. Both the recipient and donor would be entered together as a pair.



## Patient Information

As a pair you would be registered onto the UKLKSS where pairs across the UK are entered into a computer programme which will search for a suitable match. This takes place every 3 months.

### **Before you are entered onto the United Kingdom Living Kidney Sharing Scheme**

The recipient and donor must have completed all their work up tests and be deemed suitable for registration into the scheme. More than one donor can be registered for each patient; this might increase the chances of getting a match.

When a pair is registered on the scheme, your Consultant will specify the maximum acceptable donor age you will be matched with, and the tissue type match that is acceptable. This will be discussed with you at your consultation.

### **The matching runs**

Every three months a matching run will be performed by NHS Blood and Transfusion (NHSBT).

Currently these are in January, April, July and October. All new entries to the paired exchange need to be registered 3 – 4 weeks before the run takes place. People who are already registered and have had one run will automatically be entered for each subsequent run unless they decide not to continue, or if there is a medical reason for them to be removed or suspended.

### **What happens when a potential match is found?**

When a potential match is identified the recipient and donors blood tests will need to be repeated to ensure and confirm the matched recipient and donor are compatible and are a good match. This step will help us proceed to the next stage. The same testing happens at the other centres involved.

## Patient Information

The results of these blood tests may indicate that a donor or recipient is no longer a good match (due to medical reasons or a change in the antibody profile).

In such a situation it would no longer be possible to go ahead with a transplant and this may be disappointing. The transplant coordinator (or the Consultant) will explain the reasons.

When a match is found you may be expected to attend appointments at short notice to ensure the donation/transplant happens safely.

There are different types of matches which can happen. These are:

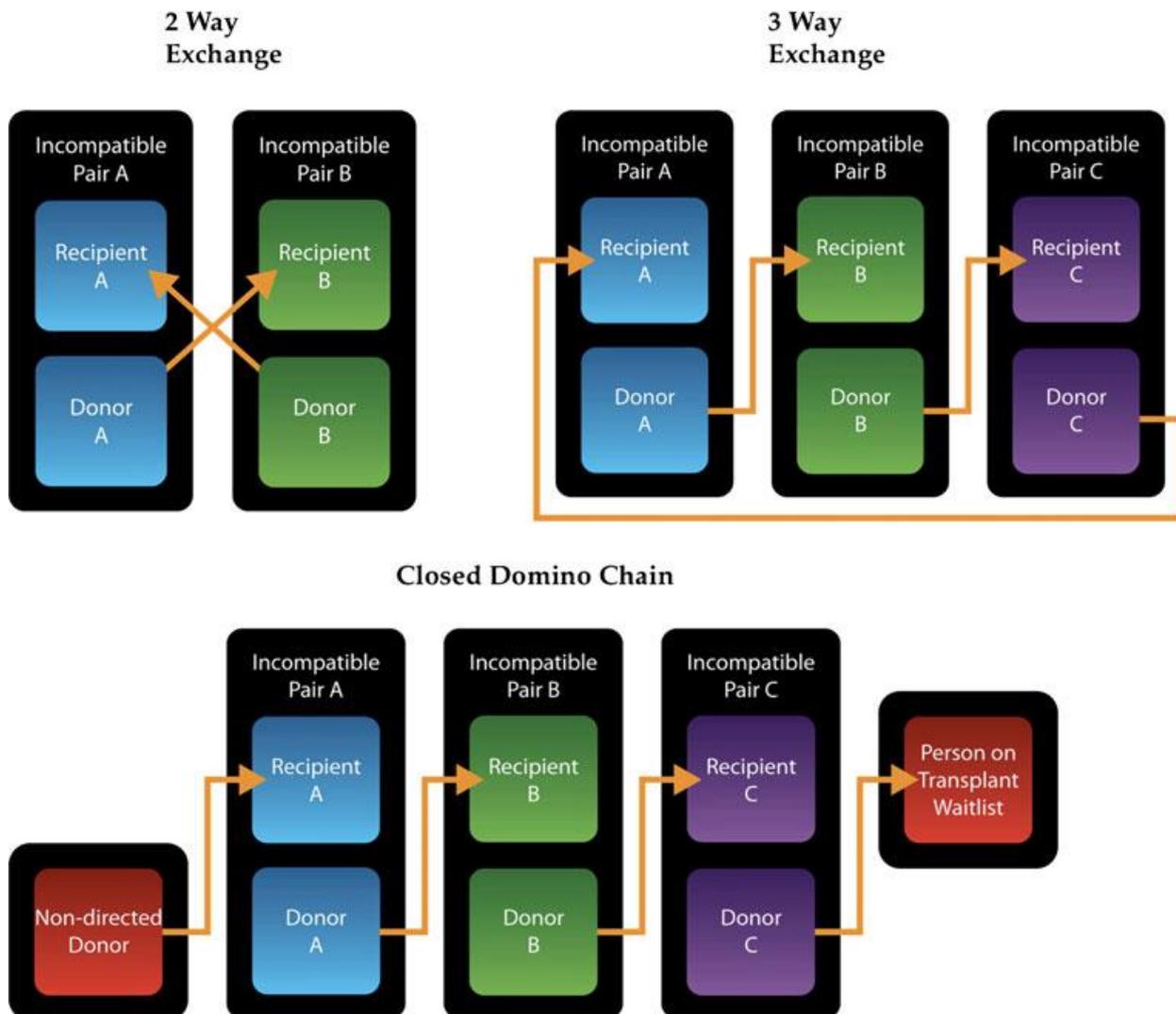
- Paired donation/ Pooled donation – this is where you would swap kidney with another pair in the same situation.
- Non directed altruistic donation – This is where a donor enters the scheme alone and donates their kidney which could trigger a domino effect creating more matches.

Each donor and recipient will have the surgery in their own hospital, with the donor operations starting on the same day.

It is not possible to know any personal details of the patient or donor you are paired up with before the transplant. Afterwards, the transplant coordinators can assist you to write to your donor/recipient.

# Patient Information

## Types of possible matches



## What happens if a potential match is not found?

Many patients do not get a successful match on their first matching run. New pairs are registered into the scheme each quarter therefore we cannot predict if or when you will be matched, however by being on this scheme increase the recipient's chances of finding a more suitable matched Kidney.

## Patient Information

More information about transplants and paired/exchange transplants may be found on the NHSBT website <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/about-donation/living-donation/>

## Further Information

For further information please contact:

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The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 7790 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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### Document History

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