

# Transplant waitlist multi-listing myths and facts

## Myths



You can only list on one hospital's waitlist for a transplant.



Multi-listing won't affect my wait time.



Multi-listing doesn't increase my chances of getting an organ.



There are restrictions to multi-listing.\*



If I do not multi-list but transfer my care to another hospital, I lose my waitlist position.\*

## Facts

You can list at multiple hospitals for a transplant. Listing at more than one transplant center is known as multi-listing.

Studies suggest that multi-listing can shorten the average waiting time for transplant candidates by several months. It can increase your chances of receiving an organ sooner by expanding the pool of available donors and varying the wait times across different regions.

Transplant wait times vary between hospitals. Listing at hospitals with shorter wait times can improve your chances of receiving an organ sooner. Researching and choosing these hospitals is more effective than listing at multiple centers indiscriminately.

Multiple listing is allowed by OPTN policy. However, it is up to each hospital to decide whether to accept you as a candidate.

If you want to end your listing at one hospital and transfer to another, your primary waiting time can be transferred if you coordinate with both programs.

\* <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/patients/about-transplantation/multiple-listing/>

# It's how we treat people.

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## Myths



People with wealth or fame can buy their way to the top of the waitlist.



You are guaranteed to be on the waitlist for minimally 3 years.



There is minimal contact from the hospital while on the waitlist.



The waitlist functions like a single-file line.



There are only waitlists per hospital.

## Facts

The allocation of organs is strictly regulated to ensure fairness and equity. Factors such as the time of listing, time spent on dialysis, medical urgency, and compatibility are the primary criteria used to determine a candidate's position on the waitlist.

Several factors influence wait times, including the availability of donors, blood type compatibility, and the specific organ needed. Each patient's situation is unique, and wait times are individualized.

Patients on the waitlist have regular and ongoing contact with the hospital. This includes annual visits with more frequent check-ups (every 6 months) for those with significant medical histories. Patients undergo monthly blood testing, annual hepatitis and other virus testing, as well as yearly chest X-rays and electrocardiograms (EKGs) to monitor their health and readiness for transplant.

The national organ transplant waiting list moves based on medical urgency, organ compatibility and availability, with patients prioritized through a computerized matching system.

The national organ transplant waiting list is managed by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), and you get added to it by listing at a hospital.