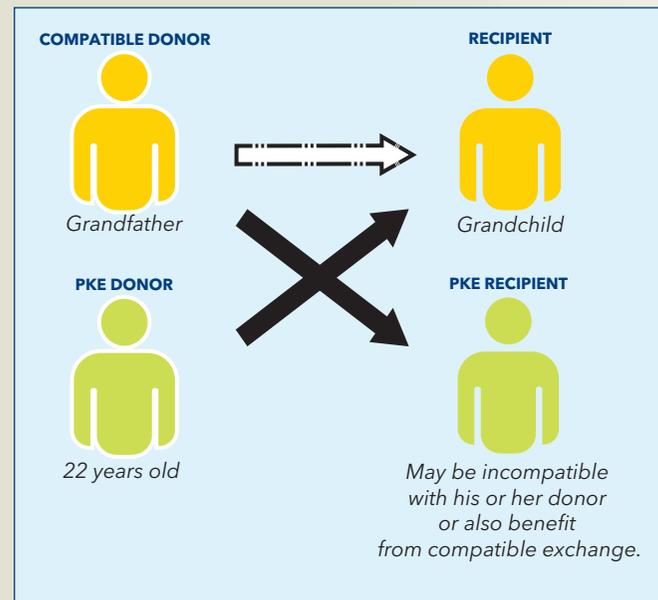


What is a Compatible Paired Exchange?

A compatible pair is a donor and recipient who are blood type and HLA (tissue type) compatible and could proceed directly to transplantation. The compatible pair enters the paired kidney exchange (PKE) for the possibility of finding a better age or HLA-matched donor, and the knowledge that multiple transplants are likely to occur based on a single donation. Better matched pairs lead to improved long-term results for the recipient.

An example of a compatible pair would be a grandfather and grandchild. The exchange would involve finding a younger compatible donor for the grandchild and the grandfather's kidney being transplanted in another patient who has an incompatible donor.

How Compatible Paired Donation Works



The Benefits of Compatible Paired Kidney Exchange

MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute is a member of the National Kidney Registry (NKR) and an active participant with compatible paired kidney exchange. Compatible pairs can benefit by finding an even more suitably matched donor. More importantly, compatible pairs allow other incompatible pairs who may not otherwise receive a kidney transplant to find a compatible match within the larger group of potential donors. A compatible pair will generally facilitate between one and ten additional transplants.

Important Phone Numbers

Paired Kidney Exchange Coordinator **202-444-6058**
Living Donor Liaison **202-444-3714**
Living Donor Social Worker/Donor Advocate **202-444-6038**

The Living Donor Team is committed to providing the highest quality of care and education to patients and their families.

If you would like to speak with a team member about living donation please call **202-444-3714**.

If you would like to speak with the paired kidney exchange coordinator about compatible paired kidney exchange, please call **202-444-6058**.

To begin the process of becoming a living kidney donor, please visit **MedStarGeorgetown.org/LivingKidneyDonor** to complete the donor questionnaire.


MedStar Georgetown
Transplant Institute



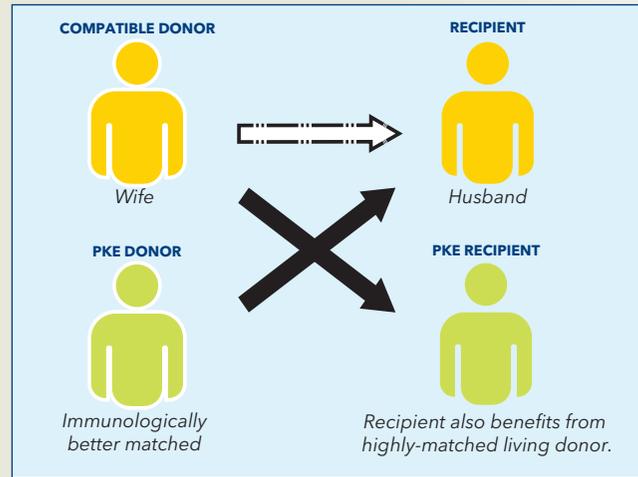
**Living Donor Compatible
Exchange and the Kidney
For Life Program**


MedStar Georgetown
Transplant Institute

3800 Reservoir Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20007
202-444-3714 **PHONE**

MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute and the NKR are now using eplet matching to find more compatible organs for our recipients. Eplets are an even more precise way to see if a patient “matches” another person. Using this new technology recipients may need less immunosuppression medication after transplant, may have fewer complications from antibodies and rejection, and may keep their transplants longer. Eplet matching is a critical component of the NKR and MedStar Georgetown’s **Kidney For Life** program, the goal of which is to prolong the life of the kidney transplant for as long as possible. Compatible pairs are encouraged to join the exchange program to benefit from this cutting-edge approach to transplant.

How Eplet Matching Works



Why Choose Us for Your Kidney Transplant?

MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute is a leader in kidney transplantation.

- Largest volume living donor program in the region
- A team that includes some of the foremost kidney specialists in the country
- Access to a wide range of innovative kidney transplant options
- Outcomes and survival rates that are among the best in the nation
- Paired kidney exchange and the management of recipients and donors who are incompatible
- One of the most successful laparoscopic living donor kidney programs in the region
- **We are the area’s only National Kidney Registry Donor Shield program, providing a range of donor protections that are otherwise not offered in the region.**

For more information about Donor Shield Protections contact our Living Donor Social Worker at 202-444-6038.

Paired Kidney Exchange Saved His Life

At first, the signs were subtle. Kenneth Hunter noticed he was always tired and felt nauseated frequently. He had been diagnosed with stage 2 kidney disease in 2013 and his condition had remained fairly stable for several years, but these new symptoms were a sign that his kidneys were failing.

Routine blood work at a nephrologist appointment indicated his kidney function tests were abnormally high. The tests were repeated the next day, with the same results. “My doctor told me to go the ER immediately because my kidneys had failed,” Kenneth remembers. “It was a shock.”

He started dialysis and began his search for a kidney donor. A MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute social worker suggested he use his social networks to expand the search. He was surprised when he got an email from Melissa Gibson, a former co-worker, saying she’d be willing to donate one of her kidneys.

“I’m a recovering alcoholic and as part of my recovery I wanted to give back. This was a chance to give life. I had no hesitation,” explains Melissa.

Melissa went to the Transplant Institute and was evaluated. “When I called Ken to tell him I was compatible and had a healthy kidney, I could hear the relief in his voice,” adds Melissa.

Although Melissa was a match, the pair was offered another opportunity. The kidney transplant program coordinator suggested that Kenneth consider a compatible paired kidney exchange. Melissa and Kenneth agreed to this plan knowing that Kenneth would still get a great living donor kidney, and their participation would allow several other people to get transplants as well.

Kenneth’s transplant was a complete success. “I have so much more energy. My wife even said I look better now than when we first met,” Kenneth says.

“Melissa has a great heart,” adds Kenneth. “She’s my hero.”

