

# **RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL - DIVISION OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION**

## **ELIGIBILITY - FOR RENAL TRANSPLANT**

### **Patient Edition**

The Transplant Division at Rhode Island Hospital will accept all interested ESRD patients for evaluation. The Team is committed to reviewing each patient's circumstances and assisting them as possible, including with insurance and drug coverage programs.

#### **Strict (absolute) Prohibitions to Listing**

- Metastatic cancer
- Untreatable cancer
- Melanoma – most cases
- Active substance (drug or alcohol) abuse
- Mental illness
  - Psychosis
  - Mentally incompetent and without adequate social support
  
- Non-compliance with medical treatments including dialysis
- Severe heart disease
- Severe lung disease
- Failure to complete work-up
- Very poor exercise ability
- Immobility
- Cirrhosis (liver failure)
- Undocumented alien or other legal barriers
- Limited life expectancy (less than 2 years, for example)
- Age > 70 – exceptions for very fit individuals up to age 80.

#### **Relative Contraindications to Listing**

- Age > 60 with diabetes
- Hepatitis
- Obesity (BMI >35)
- Severe peripheral vascular disease (hardening of the arteries)
- Stroke with poor recovery of function
- Inactivity or severe limitations in activity
- Severely abnormal heart test (stress test or Echocardiogram)
- Chronic or recurrent infections
- History of any cancer or multiple skin cancers
- Frequent hypotension requiring Rx at dialysis
- Psychiatric problems
- Compliance issues
- Inadequate social support (assistance at home, transportation, etc.)

**Reversible medical conditions**

You may undergo evaluation for renal transplantation if you have an active, but correctable medical problem (treatable infection, cancer that can be removed, etc.). Depending on the condition, you could be listed after an appropriate period of treatment and then receive a transplant when you are well.

**Individual assessment**

The decision to proceed with evaluation is based on the criteria listed and an individual clinical assessment. The Transplant Team is estimating the potential risks and benefits of a kidney transplant for you.

While most ambulatory patients (those able to walk and do normal daily activities) under age 70 will benefit from a kidney transplant some patients will be healthier remaining on dialysis.

**Second opinion**

Any patient found ineligible for renal transplantation at Rhode Island Hospital will be offered the opportunity for a second opinion at another transplant center.

**Financial issues**

We would not deny an individual acceptance into the program based on ability to pay hospital expenses. The Team may determine a patient is not eligible for transplant due to his/her inability to financially support proper follow-up care and medication costs.

BHG-PEM/cn

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