

Social Media Checklist and Tips

Florida Hospital Transplant Institute

Many patients are using social media to get the word out about their kidney disease and need for a transplant. While this can be successful, we encourage you to use the checklist below to keep you safe.

Share with family and friends. Make sure family and friends are aware of your need for a transplant before starting a campaign on social media. A distant relative or friend may come forward if given the opportunity and information needed to start thinking about donation.

Do not give away your personal information. Examples: date of birth, social security number, address. Protect yourself against identity theft.

Refer to our website FHTransplant.com as a starting point for persons interested in learning more about kidney donation.

- Individuals can fill out an application online.
- A living donor coordinator will contact them upon reviewing the application to discuss the process of evaluation.
- It is not necessary to list direct phone numbers of the coordinators or secretaries at the transplant center.

Screening Tool. We can also provide you with a screening tool to help you talk with potential donors and to make sure they meet our basic donor criteria before you refer them to complete the application. This will help the transplant center so that we can focus on the most appropriate candidates first so there aren't many delays.

Multiple Transplant Center Listing. If you are listed at multiple transplant centers you may need to choose a primary center, depending on your insurance, to work with your living donors and perform the donation and transplant surgery.

Expenses and Cost. Please remember it is illegal in the U.S. to exchange payment for a kidney donation. Donor evaluation testing is covered by your insurance with the exception of routine cancer screenings such as pap-smear, mammogram, and colonoscopy. The donor will need to use their own insurance to obtain these tests. The costs of travel, lodging, child care, and lost wages are not covered. Some private insurance policies will cover donor travel expenses and there is a National Living Donor Assistance Center that can help with some of these costs. The transplant center can help the donor apply for the assistance based on your income. **LivingDonorAssistance.org**

The Right Donor. There are so many Good Samaritans that come forward to give. Sometimes, even though they are willing, they may not be a candidate for kidney donation for medical, mental health, or other reasons. We want you to find the right donor for you and will screen each applicant individually. Donation is not right for everyone and donors have the right to opt out of the process at any time. All information is kept confidential for donor privacy and they may not share everything with you depending on their relationship to you.

