

## Kidney Glossary

**Absorption** -the degree and pace at which a drug enters the bloodstream from the small intestine

**Acute Tubular Necrosis (ATN)** - reversible kidney damage resulting in delayed kidney function

**Allocation** - The process of determining how organs are distributed. Allocation includes the system of policies and guidelines, which ensure that organs are distributed in an equitable, ethical and medically sound manner.

**Allograft** - a graft between two individuals who are of the same species (eg. human) but have genetic differences

**Anemic** - low red blood cell count

**Antacid** - a drug that aids in protecting the digestive system and relieves heartburn and digestive discomfort

**Antibody** - a protein produced by the body to eliminate foreign substances, such as bacteria

**Anti-rejection Drugs** - see immunosuppressants.

**Antigen** - a substance that triggers an immune response. This response may be the production of antibodies which try to inactivate or destroy the antigen of a transplanted organ

**Arteriogram (angiogram)** - an x-ray of the arteries taken with the aid of a dye

**Atherosclerosis** - a buildup of fats in the lining of the arteries that may interfere with the flow of blood

**Bacteria** - small germs that can cause disease

**Biopsy** - the removal and examination of tissue sampling for diagnosis

**Bladder** - the part of the urinary tract that receives urine from the kidneys and stores it until urination

**BUN** (blood urea nitrogen) - a waste product normally excreted by the kidney. BUN values represent how well the kidneys function

**Cadaveric Donor** - an individual who has recently died of causes that do not affect the function of an organ to be transplanted

**Cardiac Catheterization** - a procedure in which a small tube is guided through a vein or an artery into the right or left side of the heart to check the function of the heart and the coronary arteries

**Cardiologist** - doctor who studies and treats diseases of the heart

**Catheter** – a tube, generally small and flexible, inserted into the body, to infuse medications, monitor organ function and drain fluid

**Cellcept®** - an immunosuppressive drug used to prevent the rejection of the transplanted organ. Also known by its chemical name myophenolate mofetil

**Cholesterol** - fat substance found in animal meats, dairy products and produced by the liver. A high level of cholesterol in the blood is a risk factor for developing heart disease.

**Coagulation** - blood clotting

**Corticosteroids** - a category of immunosuppressive medications that includes prednisone and prednisolone

**Creatinine** - a substance found in blood and urine; it results from normal body chemical reactions; high blood creatinine levels are a sign of depressed kidney function

**Crossmatch** - a test in which donor and recipient blood samples are mixed together. A "*positive*" crossmatch shows the donor and recipient are incompatible. A "*negative*" crossmatch shows there is no reaction between the donor and the recipient which means that the donor and recipient are compatible and the transplant may proceed.

**Cyclosporine** - drug that helps keep the body from rejecting a transplanted organ. Brand names include Neoral® and Gengraf®

**Detoxify** - to change a harmful substance into a safer form

**Diabetes** - a disease in which patients have high levels of sugar in their blood

**Dialysis** - the process of cleansing and achieving chemical balance in the blood of patients whose kidneys have failed.

**Diastolic** - the bottom of two blood pressure numbers which measures blood pressure in the arteries when the heart is at rest

**Donor** - person who gives an organ to be transplanted in another person

**Echocardiogram** - a diagnostic test that uses reflected sound wave (ultrasound) to see images of the heart, and provides information regarding the heart's structure and function

**Edema** - excess fluid in body tissues caused by fluid leaking from blood vessels

**Electrocardiogram** - a recording of the electrical activity of the heart

**Electrolyte** - refers to the dissolved form of a mineral such as sodium, potassium, magnesium, chlorine, etc.

**Enzyme** - a protein made in the body and capable of changing a substance from one form to another

**Fluid Retention** - condition in which the body stores excess fluid

**Gastroenterologist** - a physician who specializes in the care of the digestive tract

**Glucose** - a type of sugar found in the blood

**Graft** – a transplanted organ or tissue

**Hemodialysis** - a method of dialysis in which blood is purified by circulating through an machine outside the body

**Histocompatibility** - the examination of antigens in a patient often referred to as "tissue typing" or "genetic matching". Tissue typing is routinely performed for all donors and recipients in kidney and pancreas transplantation to help match the donor with the most suitable recipients in an effort to decrease rejection of the transplanted organ.

**High Blood Pressure or Hypertension** - Occurs when the force of the blood pushing against the walls of the blood vessels is higher than normal because the blood vessels have either become less elastic or have gotten smaller. Hypertension causes the heart to pump harder to move blood through the body. It can cause kidney failure and heart disease if not treated.

**Immune Response** - any defensive reaction to foreign material by the immune system

**Immune System** – the body's natural defense system against foreign substances such as viruses, bacteria, some types of cancers, and transplanted organs or tissue

**Immunosuppressive agents** - drugs that help treat or prevent the immune system from rejecting an organ or tissue transplant

**Imuran®** - an immunosuppressive drug used to help prevent the rejection of a transplanted organ. Also known by its chemical name, azathioprine

**Incompatible** - no match or similarity between donor or recipient blood type or organs

**Insulin** - substance produced by the pancreas that helps the body absorb blood sugar from the blood into cells to produce energy

**IV (Intravenous)** - refers to giving medicines or fluids directly through a vein

**IV Catheter** - a small needle with a hollow tube inserted into a vein and used to give medicines or fluids

**Kidney** - one of the two kidney-bean-shaped organs located on both sides of the spine, just above the waist. Their function is to remove the body's waste materials and maintain fluid balance through the production of urine

**Lab Draw** - process of taking blood or urine for laboratory analysis

**Living Related Donor (LRD)** - a blood relative who donates an organ

**Match** - the compatibility between recipient and donor; the closer the match between the donor and recipient, the greater potential for a successful transplant

**Nephrologist** - a physician who studies the kidney and treats kidney disease

**Non-compliance** - failure of patients to follow the instructions and recommendations of their medical team, such as not taking medicine as prescribed or not showing up for clinic visits

**Organ Preservation** - methods used to preserve organs while they are out of a donor's body and to be transplanted to a recipient.

**Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)** - The purpose of the OPTN is to improve the effectiveness of the nation's organ procurement, donation and transplantation system by increasing the availability of and access to donor organs for patients with end-stage organ failure. Administered by UNOS (United Network Organ Sharing), it provides a unique public-private partnership that links all of the professionals involved in the donation and transplantation system.

**Organ Procurement Organization (OPO)** - An organization designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that is responsible for the procurement of organs for transplantation and the promotion of organ donation. OPOs serve as the vital link between the donor and recipient and are responsible for the identification of donors, and the retrieval, preservation and transportation of organs for transplantation

**Organ Rejection** - an attempt by the immune system to reject or destroy what it recognizes to be a "foreign" presence (for example, a transplanted liver)

**Panel Reactive Antibody (PRA)** - a way of measuring the immune system activity within the body; PRA is higher when more antibodies are being made.

**Potassium** - a mineral essential for body function

**Prednisone** - medication used to limit rejection; taken by recipients of a transplanted organ or tissue

**Prograf®** - See tacrolimus

**Psychiatrist** - physician who diagnoses and treats mental disorders

**Rapamycin (Rapamune®)** – medicine that belongs to a group of medicines known as immunosuppressive agents used to lower the body's natural immunity and prevent organ rejection in patients who receive kidney transplants.

**Rejection** – an immune response against grafted tissue in which a recipient's body rejects tissue or organ transferred from a donor

**Shingles** - a herpes virus infection that usually affects a nerve, causing pain in one area of the body

**Sodium** - a component of table salt (sodium chloride); an electrolyte that is the main salt in blood

**Status** - indicates the degree of medical urgency for patients awaiting heart or liver transplants

**Survival Rates** - indicate how many patients or grafts (transplanted organs) are alive or functioning at a set time post transplant

**Systolic** - the top of the two blood pressure numbers, which measures the maximum blood pressure reached as blood is pumped out of the heart chambers

**Tacrolimus** – a drug that helps keep the body from rejecting a transplanted organ. Brand name is Prograf®

**Thrush** - a fungus infection in the mouth

**Triglycerides** - a form of fat that the body makes from sugar, alcohol, and excess calories

**Tissue Typing** - a blood test performed prior to transplantation to evaluate the closeness of tissue match between the donor and recipient

**Ultrasound** - device that uses ultrasonic waves to outline the shape of various tissues and organs of the body

**UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing)** a national agency that maintains a national computerized transplant waiting list and helps locate donor organs

**Urethra** - a tube that drains urine from the bladder to the outside

**Ureters** - tubes that drain urine from the kidneys to the bladder

**Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)** - an infection of one or more parts of the urinary tract

**Virus** - a germ that causes infection

**Waiting List** – After a patient has concluded evaluation by the transplant physician, he/she is added by the transplant center to a national waiting list. Lists are specific to both geographic area and organ type. Each time a donor organ becomes available, UNOS generates a list of potential recipients based on factors that include genetic similarity, organ size, medical urgency, and time a patient has been on the waiting list