Body, Mind & Spirit

Baylor St. Luke’s is deeply committed to healing the whole person—body, mind and spirit. Highly skilled medical professionals understand the importance of delivering compassionate care, which encourages a holistic approach to healthcare while respecting the patient’s values and beliefs. Our chaplains, dedicated to the spiritual well-being of our patients, provide worship opportunities for diverse faiths. The transplant experience can be a lengthy process; our team will guide you during this journey and provide the information and care you and your family need.

Contact Us

CHI St. Luke’s Health—Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center

Kidney Transplant Program
O’Quinn Medical Tower
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stlukeshouston.com/transplant
Overview

The Kidney Transplant Program is dedicated to providing a superior level of care to patients approaching or at “end-stage renal disease”. We offer a complete continuum of care, from initial counseling and evaluation to surgery, rehabilitation and post-transplant follow-up.

Our multidisciplinary team is comprised of surgeons, transplant nephrologists, transplant coordinators, social workers, a dietician, a pharmacist and financial counselors. Since 1986, we have cared for more than 1,800 kidney transplant patients.

Surrounding Our Patients with Care

Transplant patients have access to a wide range of consultative services while receiving care at Baylor St. Luke's. Our patients receive optimal treatment from Radiology, Infectious Disease, Hematology, and Neurology to Physical Therapy and follow-up.

An emphasis on histocompatibility and immune evaluation prior to transplant ensures that we are providing patients with comprehensive pre-and post-transplant immune evaluation testing to decrease the likelihood of rejection.

We also offer patients the option to participate in both related and unrelated living donation as well as paired kidney exchange. A living donor kidney transplant has many advantages when compared to a deceased donor kidney transplant:

- A kidney from a living donor typically works better and has a longer life span.
- The surgery can be pre-scheduled, avoiding the uncertainty and stress of being on the waiting list.
- May prevent the need for dialysis and the complications associated with kidney failure.
- Living donor kidneys typically begin to function immediately.
- For some patients with kidney failure, a living donation may be life-saving.

Who is eligible to donate?

A living donor can be:

- Family, friend, spouse or co-worker;
- Directed altruistic donor (someone who donates a kidney to a specific person);
- Non-directed altruistic donor (someone who donates a kidney to a non-specific person on the waiting list);
- Through the Paired Donor Exchange program; a person who is willing to donate, but is incompatible to the intended recipient; kidney paired donation matches one incompatible donor/recipient pair to another pair in the same situation, so that the donor of the first pair gives to the recipient of the second, and vice versa.

Transplant Option

The Kidney Transplant Program performs both living donor and deceased donor transplants.

Deceased donor transplants are made possible through the generosity of organ donors and their families. Patients seeking a kidney transplant from a deceased donor are placed on the national waiting list and are contacted by the transplant staff once a matching donor becomes available.