

Mobilizing Research Findings to Achieve More Living Kidney Donor (LKD) Transplants

THE ISSUE

The best treatment option for many patients with kidney failure is a transplant from a living donor, which offers patients a longer & better quality of life at a fraction of the cost of dialysis. However, many patients will never receive one.

OVERALL GOAL: ACHIEVE MORE LIVING DONOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS IN CANADA.

KEY OBJECTIVES: "Addressing the Problem"

- 1) To define what a high-quality living donor evaluation looks like for donor candidates and select at least 5 associated consensus-based metrics and benchmarks (e.g., *how long it should take for candidates to learn they are eligible to donate*).
- 2) To translate metrics for a high-quality living donor kidney evaluation into scorecards.
- 3) To translate the results of our process evaluation evaluating our quality improvement intervention to Enhance Access to Kidney Transplantation and Living Kidney Donation (EnAKT LKD) to help more patients in Ontario receive a kidney transplant.
- 4) To test and evaluate solutions to improve the efficiency of living donor kidney evaluations (e.g., *the one-day donor evaluation clinic*).



EnAKT LKD Trial Final Results

- Published "Implementation of a One-Day Living Kidney Donor Assessment Clinic to Improve the Efficiency of the Living Kidney Donor Evaluation: Program Report" in *CJKHD*.
- Evaluated more than 150 donor candidates in the one-day clinic. Feedback from donors has been uniformly (98%) positive.
- Gave poster presentation "Patients Improving Access to Kidney Transplant: The Patient Partner Coalition", at the Pride in Patient Engagement in Research (PiPER) Research Day.



One-Day LKD Clinic Program Report

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Develop scorecards that highlight areas for improvement to foster a quality improvement culture.
- Reduce the average donor evaluation time by at least 3 months - using the scorecards to determine whether the goal is achieved.
- If the one-day donor evaluation pilot proves successful, encourage implementation elsewhere.
- Improve equitable access to living donor kidney transplants and increase the total number of living donor transplants.
- Publish on how TAP was developed and is being expanded, and plan for the qualitative evaluation of TAP.

"Living kidney donation, as the gold standard of care, needs to be more accessible for all patients, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, geography or income. This research team, which includes patients and living donors, is breaking down barriers that patients and donors currently face while trying to receive a transplant, with the end goal of increasing living kidney donation rates and ultimately, save many more lives."

-Susan McKenzie, Patient partner and recipient of a living donor kidney

PATIENT PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Our Patient Partners have:

- Identified priority research topics and formulated the questions.
- Helped conduct the studies & interpret the results.
- Developed & implemented TAP.
- Developed the National Patient Partner Coalition as a subcommittee of the Kidney Patient and Donor Alliance Canada.
- Recruited a diverse group of patients and donors to participate in TAP and other research projects.
- Helped patients tell their stories.



Patients Improving Access to Kidney Transplant: The Patient Partner Coalition (PPC)

Patients and living donors have a unique opportunity, credibility, and authenticity to persuasively advocate for an accountable healthcare system. The PPC:

- Includes 30+ patients with kidney disease from across Canada, a communication specialist, two clinicians and one researcher.
- Holds monthly meetings to translate knowledge from research into policy and practice.
- Advocates to mobilize our research findings to achieve more LKD transplants.
- Held the first annual Kidney Advocacy Day at Queens Park (Mar 6, 2024) focused on the Transplant 1st Campaign and met with more than 50 Ontario government policymakers to discuss the need to increase kidney transplants.

The PPC can transform the way we conduct patient-partner research and serve as a framework for other research groups.



TRANSPLANT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- Transplant Ambassadors are kidney transplant recipients or living kidney donors who help guide kidney patients through their journey.
- Atlantic TAP was launched in 2023.
- PatientsSeekingDonors.ca platform has over 130 patient subscribers who are looking for living donors.
- More than 200 ambassadors who speak 25+ languages.
- >8000 interactions with patients since 2017.
- 1400 patients and donors on the mailing list.

Patient Partner Coalition webpage



Acknowledgments