



Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation Surgery Newsletter



Police Officer Saved by Kidney Donation from Fellow Officer



For many, [kidney transplantation](#) will give you freedom, make you feel better and present you with a new lease on life! But it's not always smooth sailing. For most people who need a transplant, the first step in receiving a transplant is to get on the national transplant waiting list for a transplant from a deceased donor. Currently, there are close to 100,000 people on the kidney transplant waiting list.

When retired police officer and 9/11 first responder Joseph Cappuccilli became a prime candidate for a kidney transplant last year, he faced an uphill battle.

In New York, eligible candidates can wait eight to ten years before a kidney becomes available, according to [Dr. Sandip Kapur](#), the Director of [Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Programs](#) at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine who performed Joseph's surgery.

Meanwhile, a social media post caught the attention of Mark Chamberlain, a retired NYPD officer, who was also a 9/11 first responder. Mark saw a post by Cappuccilli's wife, who was searching desperately for a donor. He decided to help.

"Joe's wife wrote in her short message that she's praying that another police officer will step forward because we can always count on each other and that's...what touched a nerve with me," Chamberlain said.

The two men proved to be a match, and [Dr. Sandip Kapur](#) performed the life-altering transplant at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Our kidney transplant program is the oldest in New York State and the leading living donor center on the East Coast in recent years.

[Learn more about Cappuccilli and Chamberlain's story by watching the video.](#)

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine Pre-Transplant Surgery Support Group



It is normal to feel apprehensive about attending a transplant support group, as many people feel reluctant about talking in a group setting.

However, transplant patients and their families can gain support from many different types of groups, including group gatherings, educational programs, one-on-one support, social activities, newsletters, written materials, Internet groups, and talking on the telephone.

Often times patients learn from each other, gain confidence and exchange important information. Transplant support groups can also help you become familiar with members of the transplant teams. Knowledgeable staff members, who can help provide support and education, facilitate the groups.

For more information about NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine Pre-Transplant Surgery Support Group, contact Samantha Levine at 212-746-6849 or [view our support group flyer.](#)

The Gift of Life



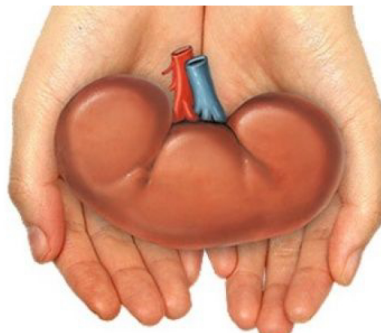
"I really don't know what drives me. I wish I had some great explanation. But the way I look at it, I have an extra kidney and there's someone out there who definitely needs one," said Kevin Shea.

There are two options when it comes to [kidney transplantation](#) – a transplant from a deceased donor, or from a living donor. The primary advantages of [living kidney donation](#) are that recipients receive a transplant far sooner than is possible by waiting on the list for a deceased donor kidney, often before needing to go on dialysis.

This holiday season, Kevin Shea, third-generation firefighter and 9/11 survivor, celebrated his amazing fortune by giving the gift of life to a stranger — a 59-year-old special-ed teacher from Orange County, Calif., in desperate need of a kidney.

[View the entire story here](#)

Shipping Living Donor Kidneys and Transplant Outcomes



Kidney paired donation (KPD) is an important tool to facilitate living donor kidney transplantation (LDKT). Recent acceptance of the practice of KPD in the United States has given rise to national KPD registries that facilitate KPD exchanges between kidney donors and recipients separated by long distances. The transplant community varies in whether they support shipping living donor kidneys long distances through KPD programs adding significant cold ischemia times (CIT).

This latest research shows that CIT in kidney paired donation transplants does not have a detrimental impact on patient or graft survival.

[View the full article here](#)

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