



Kidney Transplants

End stage renal disease (ESRD) results when progressive disease has damaged the kidneys to such an extent that the kidney function tests become grossly abnormal and medical intervention is required to prevent death. Treatment at this point consists of permanent dialysis or kidney transplantation. Kidney transplants can be from either a living related donor or cadaver organ donor.

Indications for a kidney transplant include any cause of ESRD. The most common causes in the U.S. are diabetes firstly, followed by hypertension and glomerulonephritis.

Possible complications of transplant are:

- infections
- chronic rejection
- hypertension
- poor lipid profiles
- cardiovascular disease
- recurrence of disease which led to the ESRD
- toxicity of the immunosuppressive treatment (*anti-rejection medications*)
- cancer

The best cases are non-diabetic persons who received a well-matched kidney from a living related donor (*an identical twin being the perfect match*) and have no other significant medical impairment such as heart disease. Other favorable features include normal post-transplant kidney function, urinalysis, and blood pressure. There should be no serious rejection episodes that required high dose immunosuppressive agents beyond usual maintenance dosage and no serious infections.

Underwriting Guidelines:

Current dialysis treatment is considered a decline. Kidney transplants (*best case scenario only, as outlined above*) would be postponed one year. Thereafter, best cases would be Class H to decline range depending on the favorable or unfavorable features present. Transplants from identical twins may be considered slightly more favorably.

To get an idea of how a client with a history of kidney transplant would be viewed in the underwriting process, feel free to use the Ask "Rx" pert underwriter on the reverse side for an informal quote.

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751 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102-3777
Rx049 IFS-A009776 Ed. 05/07 Exp. 11/08

