

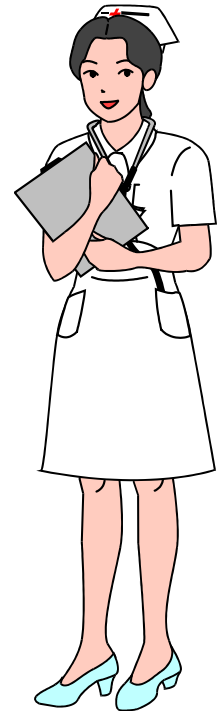
Challenges for the Transplant Patient Away From Home

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Making a Transplant Successful

- Why are we all here?
- We are all working to help Pt's get organs and keep them as long as possible
- How is this accomplished?



Making a Transplant Successful

- From a social worker's perspective...
 1. Ability to get medications/Adherence to medication regimen
 2. Social support/ Stable-safe housing
 3. Consistent transportation/ compliance with appointments
 4. Stable mental health/ Positive outlook
 5. Absence of chemical dependency issues

Making a Transplant Successful

- Barriers:

Having a barrier in any of these psychosocial domains can result in a Pt having an episode of rejection or losing their organ.

When Pt's have a far distance to travel it makes these barriers more likely to happen and more difficult to find solutions for.

Transportation

Pt misconceptions that may lead to problems:

- Not understanding the frequency/duration of post transplant follow up
- Thinking they can get labs done anywhere or go immediately back to their local doctors for post transplant follow up
- All SW's have stacks of gas vouchers sitting on their desks to pass out to Pt's as needed
- ESRD insurance will cover transportation for transplant visits as it did for dialysis
- My favorite..... I will get my organ now and worry about transportation later.

Transportation

Having transportation to and from the hospital is a requirement to be listed for transplant.

However many Pt's are:

- Are indigent (can't afford gas, a car, or to pay someone to bring them)
- Have limited social supports to rely on for help navigating how to get to appointments
- Live too far away to take the bus

Housing

Pt misconceptions that may lead to problems:

- I can go home alone with no support-no problem!
- I don't need to stay within 60 miles of the transplant center
- You can put my support person in a hotel room during my stay in the hospital
- My insurance will pay for my housing after transplant

Housing

Having stable, safe housing or staying close to the hospital is often a requirement for Pt's

However many Pt's:

1. Cannot afford to pay for a hotel or short term apartment
2. Cannot afford to buy meals out every time
3. They live too far away or are too sick to drive back and forth from home
4. They don't have friends or family in the area to stay with

Resources Already Available

They do not come close to meeting the demand for Pt's and families!

- Kidney Foundation Grant for gas vouchers
- National Foundation for Transplants (Home away from Home)
- Bridgestreet (extended stay apartments-still expensive)
- Fund raising through various avenues