

## Blood Type B candidates: Accepting A2 or A2B kidneys

### Blood type B

When on the waiting list for a kidney, patients with blood type B usually only receive deceased donor kidneys from blood type B donors. Unfortunately, the number of blood type B donors is low compared to the need, and the waiting time for kidney transplants is longest for patient with this blood type.

### How can patients with blood type B receive kidneys from other blood types?

Patients with blood type B usually cannot receive kidneys from donors with blood type A.

However, up to 20% of blood type A donors have a subtype called "A2" or "non-A1" blood type. Many blood type B recipients can be compatible with these "A2" or "non-A1" donors if they have low levels of antibodies against the A2 donors.

### Why am I being contacted?

You are being contacted because our center checked antibody levels on all blood type B patients on our waiting list. You have a low level of antibodies against blood type A donors, and this means that it may be safe and effective for you to accept a kidney from an "A2" or "non-A1" donor.

You could still receive a kidney from a B donor, but if you give permission to receive a kidney from an A2 donor, it will expand your options and could result in shorter waiting time for you.

### What is A2B?

AB is another blood type, which can usually only be given to blood type AB recipients. However, even AB donors can have the A2 type, so these A2B kidneys also be transplanted into blood type B recipients that have low anti-A antibody levels.

### What are the possible benefits and risks?

**Pro:** You may receive a transplant sooner. This is important for patients that face a higher risk of death or decline in their health status while waiting for a transplant.

**Con:** Even though you have low levels of antibodies, there is a small risk for a type of rejection related to receiving a kidney from a different blood type. This is called antibody-mediated rejection and could require treatment to remove your antibodies against blood type A.

**Con:** We will monitor your antibody levels closely for at least one month after transplant or at later times if you experience changes in kidney function. You could require a biopsy of the kidney or treatment if the antibody levels increase unexpectedly.

### What treatments might be used to remove antibodies?

If you develop an antibody-mediated rejection, we will use a treatment called plasmapheresis. This is similar to dialysis in that it requires access to your bloodstream with a graft, fistula, or catheter. The procedure removes antibodies from your

plasma (blood), and is repeated daily or every other day until the antibody levels return to safe levels. We may use other medications to prevent you from making more antibodies.

### How do I change my status?

If you are interested in receiving a kidney from an A2 or A2B donor, let your transplant team know. They can discuss this option with you. Based upon your decision, they can make appropriate changes in your waitlist status.

**In order to be placed on the A2 or A2B list, you must sign the attached consent form and return it to your coordinator.** You may add or withdraw your consent at any time.

### What if I have more questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, you should contact your transplant team for further information. Additional details about the OPTN/UNOS, allocation policy and patient information resources are available on the following websites:

<http://www.optn.org>

<http://www.unos.org>

**A2 and A2B Consent Form**

**MRN#** \_\_\_\_\_

I have been educated on receiving a kidney from a blood type A2 or A2B donor. I understand the information given to me and I have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand I may withdraw this consent at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I would like to be considered for A2 or A2B donor kidneys**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **No, I do not wish to be considered for A2 or A2B donor kidneys**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_