

DONATION / TURKEY

Living Donation and Transplant Rules in Turkey

What patients and living donors need to know before a kidney transplant or living-donor liver transplant.

First step: confirm whether treatment can be considered

Before traveling, send the patient's medical records and information about the potential donor to the hospital. Ask for a written reply on whether your pair can be considered and what needs to be prepared.

A living donor is required

For planned treatment of patients traveling from abroad, living donation is considered. You should not plan to travel to Turkey to obtain an organ through the national deceased-donor waiting list. [3]

Two people are assessed

Doctors assess the benefit of transplantation for the patient and the risks for the donor. Being related and willing to help do not by themselves mean clearance for surgery. [2]

Donation is voluntary and unpaid

Buying an organ or paying someone to agree to donate is not permitted. Medical care is billed separately. [3]

GUIDE SCOPE • Living donation of a kidney or part of the liver. Separate conditions apply to other organs, tissues, and bone marrow.

Who Can Be a Donor

A donor must be at least 18 years old, understand the consequences of the decision, and voluntarily consent to evaluation and surgery. Medical suitability is determined by the transplant center. [2]

Relationship: who is usually considered

Degree of relationship	Examples of blood relatives
First	Parents, adult children
Second	Siblings, grandparents, grandchildren
Third	Aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews
Fourth	First cousins

These examples are not exhaustive. The rules also cover relatives by marriage up to and including the fourth degree; the relationship is confirmed with documents. [1] [3]

If the donor is a spouse

The general condition is a marriage of at least two years. An exception is provided when the condition requiring transplantation was diagnosed after the marriage. [1]

If the donor is not related

Eligibility for donation is considered by the ethics committee. It reviews the nature of the relationship and whether the decision is voluntary; approval is not guaranteed. [1]

For a pair traveling from abroad

Ask the hospital to confirm the process for your specific pair, taking nationality, place of residence, and relationship into account. Do not treat kinship as an automatic exemption from additional checks.

02 / BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Documents to Prepare

Start with copies. After a preliminary review, the hospital will tell you which originals, translations, and certifications are required in your case. [3]

Medical information

PATIENT

- Discharge summary with diagnosis and treatment history.
- Recent test results and imaging.
- Medication and allergy list.
- If on dialysis: modality, start date, and treatment schedule.

POTENTIAL DONOR

- Age and blood type, if known.
- Chronic conditions, previous surgeries, and medications.
- Available test results and imaging.
- How the donor is related to the patient.

Identity and relationship

Passports for both participants; birth and marriage certificates; documents evidencing a change of surname. For more distant relatives, documents linking the generations will be required. [3]

Additional materials for the committee

On request: evidence of relationship, residential addresses, and information about the donor's income and debts. If the donor is married, a statement confirming that the spouse is aware of the decision may be required. [1]

Confirm the list before notarizing

Confirm the translation language, whether notarization, an apostille, or consular legalization is required, and the document validity period. Do not arrange the same set for the patient and donor without confirming the requirements.

For a child patient, the legal representative's documents are confirmed separately.

How the Decision Is Made

1 Document review

The transplant team conducts a preliminary case review and advises which tests or documents are still required. A response by correspondence does not replace in-person clearance.

2 Separate donor assessment

Organ function, general health, and surgical risks are assessed. The donor discusses the decision privately, without pressure from family. [2]

3 Compatibility and legal review

For a kidney transplant, blood group, tissue compatibility, and the recipient's antibody response to donor cells are checked. Documents are reviewed in parallel; if needed, the application is referred to the ethics committee. [1] [5]

4 Final plan

After all required clearances, the surgical method and date are agreed. If the donor is unsuitable or withdraws consent, the procedure does not proceed; further options are discussed with a doctor.

Different blood groups do not always rule out transplantation

If blood groups are incompatible, special preparation or kidney paired donation may be discussed: donors from different pairs help patients compatible with them. The hospital confirms whether the program is available for an international pair and how long matching may take. [2] [4]

Donor's right: to withdraw at any stage before surgery. The center has an independent living-donor advocate; ask how to contact them. [1] [2]

04 / PLANNING

Trip Duration and Budget

Planning guide: 4-8 weeks for the patient

Liv Hospital's information on kidney and liver transplantation states a total patient stay of 4-8 weeks and a donor stay of 3-4 weeks. This is a planning example, not one timeline for every hospital. [4]

Example of hospital stay at Liv Hospital

After surgery	Patient	Donor
Kidney transplant	5-7 days	2-3 days
Living-donor liver transplant	10-14 days*	5-7 days

* Includes intensive care. These are clinical planning points, not the number of paid package days. After discharge, follow-up near the hospital is required. [4]

Permission to fly home is given separately for the patient and donor. Additional tests, committee review, or complications may extend the trip. If dialysis is required, arrange treatment in Turkey in advance.

Ask to include in the written estimate

- ☐ Tests, surgery, and anesthesia for both participants.
- ☐ Hospital and intensive care days; cost of extension.
- ☐ Post-discharge medications and follow-up tests.
- ☐ Accommodation outside the hospital, interpreter, and transport.
- ☐ Deposit, additional charges, and settlement if surgery is canceled after testing.

Also confirm the cost of assessing a second donor candidate if the first donor is unsuitable. Refund terms and program components are stated in the hospital offer.

Follow-up Continues at Home

For the patient

Anti-rejection medication and regular testing are needed. Before leaving, obtain the medication plan, testing schedule, and treating team's contact details; arrange follow-up with a local doctor. If fever, worsening symptoms, or wound problems occur, contact a doctor rather than wait for a routine visit. [4] [5]

For the donor

Health monitoring remains important after recovery. After kidney donation, blood pressure and the function of the remaining kidney are monitored; after partial liver donation, follow the surgeon's plan. Most donors return to usual activities, but the risk of complications is not zero. [2] [6]

How Saulyk can help

We can help submit documents, communicate with the hospital, and address travel arrangements. The medical team is responsible for evaluation and treatment; the authorized body makes the ethics committee decision. Saulyk does not match donors or grant permission for transplantation.

Sources

Links are active. Checked September 12, 2026.

01 Turkey's transplantation regulations

Organ Nakli Hizmetleri Yönetmeliği, Arts. 12-16. Consolidated text in LEXPERA.

02 Turkish Ministry of Health: donor assessment and follow-up

03 Biruni Hospital: international patients and documents

04 Liv Hospital: timing and transplant program

05 NIDDK: follow-up after kidney transplant

06 National Kidney Foundation: living donor health

This guide helps you prepare to contact a hospital. The chosen center confirms the final requirements, clearance, and treatment plan. Access conditions are reviewed separately for foreign nationals permanently resident in Turkey.