Kidney Transplantation - Participation in the Australian Paired Kidney Exchange Programme

Summary
The Australian Paired Kidney Exchange Program (AKX Program) is a national live kidney donor program whose goal is to increase opportunities for live kidney donor transplantation by identifying matches for incompatible donor-recipient pairs. Nationally consistent protocols and standards developed for the program are to be adopted by NSW public health organisations to guide clinicians and institutions in the practice of paired kidney exchange by living donors and recipients.

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Secretary, NSW Health
This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is mandatory for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.
KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION - PARTICIPATION IN THE AUSTRALIAN PAIRED KIDNEY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

PURPOSE

The Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) Programme is a national live kidney donor program which aims to increase opportunities for live kidney donor transplantation by identifying matches for incompatible donor-recipient pairs.

The AKX Programme provides national protocols and standards to guide clinicians and health facilities in undertaking paired kidney exchange by living donors and recipients.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS


Facilities must ensure flexibility in surgical scheduling in order to prioritise the optimisation of paired kidney transplant operations. Arrangements must be made to accommodate simultaneous donor operations ensuring optimal and fair exchanges of organs as part of the AKX Program.

IMPLEMENTATION

Chief Executives of Local Health Districts, Specialty Networks and licensed private health facilities must ensure that this policy directive is brought to the attention of participating clinical staff and health facilities.

Directors of Renal Medicine and Renal Transplantation must ensure that local protocols, including for assessment and management of living kidney donors and donor-recipients, are aligned with the AKX Programme and are consistent with the AKX User Manual.

Staff responsible for procedures related to the assessment and management of living kidney donors must ensure compliance with this and related policy directives.

REVISION HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
<th>Amendment notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health</td>
<td>Provides information on the allocation of non-directed living donors into the AKX Programme consistent with PD 2015_041 Kidney Donation – Living (including Directed and Non-Directed Donation) and an updated link to the AKX Programme User Manual.</td>
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<td>September 2010</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General, Population Health</td>
<td>New policy</td>
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1  BACKGROUND

1.1  About this document

This Policy Directive deals with the Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) Programme. The AKX Programme is a national live kidney donor program which aims to increase opportunities for live kidney donor transplantation by identifying matches for incompatible donor-recipient pairs.

The AKX Programme operates under the auspice of the Australian Organ and Tissue Authority. The Transplant Society of Australia and New Zealand's Renal Transplant Advisory Committee provides clinical advice to the AKX Programme.

The AKX Programme provides national protocols and standards to guide clinicians and health facilities in the practice of paired kidney exchange by living donors and recipients.

1.2  Legal and legislative framework

1.2.1  Approvals under the NSW Human Tissue Act 1983

In accordance with the NSW Human Tissue Act 1983, approval of the Minister for Health (or their delegate, for instance the Chief Health Officer) must be obtained for paired kidney exchanges.

Section 32 of the Human Tissue Act 1983 prohibits the entering into of a contract or arrangement that may result in the sale or supply of tissue from one person to another for “valuable consideration”. Valuable consideration may include the exchange of kidneys between incompatible donor-recipient pairs.

Section 32 (4) of the Human Tissue Act 1983 allows for the Minister (or their delegate) to approve entering into such a contract or arrangement by reason of special circumstance.

To facilitate this approval process, donor-recipient pairs must indicate evidence of their willingness and consent to participate and to donate/receive an exchanged kidney to/from someone else.

Approvals are organised through the AKX National Coordination Centre upon receipt of donor and recipient Agreement to Participate in AKX Forms.

1.2.2  Corresponding Policy Directives

This Policy Directive should be read in conjunction with:

- PD2005_406 Consent to Medical Treatment – Patient Information
- PD 2015_041 Kidney Donation - Living (Including Directed and Non-Directed Donation)
- PD2016_001 Donation, Use and Retention of Tissue from Living Persons
2 THE AKX USER MANUAL

The AKX User Manual is the agreed procedural guideline for the provision of paired kidney exchange in Australia. The AKX User Manual is available at:


The AKX User Manual outlines the roles and responsibilities of NSW facilities and of clinical and administrative staff including renal specialists, transplant nephrologists, transplant coordinators, transplant surgeons and Australian Red Cross Blood Service tissue typing staff.

NSW Health staff must comply with the requirements and processes outlined within the AKX User Manual including the procedures for assessing, consenting and registering donors and donor-recipient pairs into the AKX Programme, and the use of specified forms.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE AKX PROGRAMME

3.1 Informed consent

Informed consent for participation in the AKX Programme must be obtained from each participating donor and donor-recipient pair in accordance with the protocols in the AKX User Manual.

Valid, informed consent for participation in paired kidney exchange is contingent on donor-recipient pairs’ receipt and consideration of information on the nature, implications, foreseeable risks and benefits of their participation in this donation process.

Participant donor-recipient pairs must sign a written consent instrument - the relevant donor or recipient Agreement to Participate in AKX form.

Participants must also accept a number of pre-conditions with regard to the exchange including anonymity of donor-recipient pairs, the lack of an enforceable contract to the exchange and mandatory pre-donation counselling.

3.2 Non-directed (altruistic) donors

Non-directed (altruistic) living kidney donation is permitted in NSW.

Non-directed living kidney donors in NSW will be registered in the AKX Programme for potential matching and kidney allocation for a specified number of AKX match “runs” in the National Organ Matching Service (NOMS).
Assessment and management of non-directed living kidney donors must first meet the requirements outlined in PD 2015_041, *Kidney Donation - Living (Including Directed and Non-Directed Donation)*.

### 3.3 Responsibilities of Clinical Staff and Facilities

#### 3.3.1 Access to the AKX Registry

NSW transplant units participating in the AKX Programme must have at least one health professional designated as an authorised Medical Message Exchange (MMEx) user in order to access and facilitate use of the AKX Registry.

Authorisation is granted by the AKX National Coordination Centre. Contact information for the AKX National Coordination Centre is available within the AKX User Manual.

#### 3.3.2 Patient management and scheduling

Local protocols must support the enrolment of living kidney donors and recipients in the AKX Programme and must be consistent with protocols outlined in the AKX User Manual.

Facilities must ensure flexibility in surgical scheduling to accommodate synchronized donor operations, ensuring optimal and fair exchanges of organs as part of the AKX Program.

Staff involved in the assessment and management of living kidney donors and donor-recipients must be aware of the AKX procedures.