



Living Kidney Donors Network Virtual Get-Together

Overview

A Living Kidney Donors Network Online Get-Together educates people in need of a kidney transplant, so they understand the facts about living donation and teaches them the skills to effectively communicate the need to family members and friends. Advocates, people who are interested in helping spread the word on behalf of the person in need are invited to attend.

To promote a comfortable setting, your get-together should take place in one of the attendees' homes. The host of the get-together needs to have broadband internet access. The facilitator will use an internet service called "Go To Meeting." This is a free service that will allow the facilitator to be speaking live and making a presentation over the internet that will be viewed on the host's computer. Everyone attending will have a copy of all the presentation materials.

The information discussed is divided into two main segments; the first focuses on educating everyone about living donation. The second reviews effective communicating techniques and provides time to put into practice some of the approaches that are discussed. The get-togethers are taught by kidney transplant recipients and donors. Peer assisted learning has proven to be a very effective model.

Educational Component

Individuals in need of a kidney transplant, and their advocates, will have more confidence to talk about living kidney donation if they are knowledgeable about the topic.

Communications/Group Interactions

Having the knowledge about living kidney transplants is important, combining that with good communication skills will increase the likelihood of success. Having support from people you know is very helpful to the person in need of the transplant. In fact, it is motivating for the whole group knowing that they have joined forces to achieve a common goal.

After discussing communication techniques and specific "Talking Points", everyone is encouraged and given an opportunity to practice (or role play) a situation where they are telling a family member or friend about their or their friends need for a kidney transplant.

During the summary, everyone will review the "Getting Starting" outline. This helps each person develop their own plan and the steps they want to take to have a successful outcome.

When leaving, everyone will have the knowledge of the transplant process along with the verbal skills to be effective in speaking to others. They will also know that they can call upon one of the other Advocates with any questions that might develop.