

Becoming a Living Liver Donor

What is a living donor liver transplant?

This is when a person who is alive gives part of their liver to someone who needs a liver transplant. When someone gets a new liver this way, it means they don't have to wait for a deceased organ donor. It can help them get the help they need before they get too sick.

UC Davis Transplant Center offers this option to patients who need new livers and have found a matching living donor.

Should I donate part of my liver?

Only you can answer this question. The decision is completely up to you and always voluntary, meaning you can change your mind at any time. Donating is a serious decision, and it is your job to learn all the facts before you decide. We are here to help and support you through this process and will gladly answer all your questions.

If I'm interested in being a living donor, what do I do?

First, all these things must be true:

- You are 18 to 60 years old.
- You are in good physical and mental health.
- You have a BMI of 35 or less.
- You have not previously donated part of your liver.
- You do not and will not engage in active ongoing alcohol, drug, or substance abuse.
- You have no history of:
 - liver disease, including cirrhosis and hepatitis
 - major diseases of the lungs, kidney, or heart
 - active, malignant cancer
 - HIV
- You are thinking of donating part of your liver to someone you know. This person is a patient at UC Davis who's either on our liver transplant waitlist or currently being evaluated for liver transplant.

If all the above are true, please fill out our online donor registration application.

Go to health.ucdavis.edu/transplant to apply. You must include the name of the UC Davis patient you want to donate to. We'll review your application and decide if you're a potential donor. We will contact you once a decision has been made.

One you are approved as a potential donor:

- You will need to have blood tests done to determine your blood type.
- You will learn about the entire donor process, including donor evaluation. This is how we determine if you can be a donor. Going through evaluation is an intense process. Before you agree to do it, you need to know what will happen, as well as the risks involved. Learning about what you agree to is a process called **informed consent**.

The Donor Evaluation

- We will schedule you for evaluation, but **only after** you have learned all about the process and we have your signed, informed consent to move forward.
- During the evaluation you will meet many members of the transplant team.
- You'll have a great deal of lab work and testing, including medical, physical, and psychological tests. These tests will determine if you meet the requirements to be a donor.
- The surgeon will talk with you in more detail about the risks and complications of surgery and being a donor.

After Evaluation

The transplant team will review your tests and contact you with the results. Together, we'll decide if you can be a donor. If you're approved, we will work with you and your recipient to schedule surgery for a time that works for both of you.

Risks of Evaluation

During evaluation, you may find out about medical problems you didn't know you had. You need to be prepared for this possibility.



Before Surgery

You'll meet with the transplant surgeon to talk about any additional questions you have. Together with our team, you will review and sign all the paperwork and consent forms that are required for surgery.

Day of Surgery and Hospital Stay

You'll be admitted to UC Davis Medical Center. During surgery and after, the surgical transplant team will care for you. You will also have support from the transplant social workers, dietitians, pharmacists, and your living-donor advocate.

During your stay, we'll teach you about all the things you need to know and do as you recover. This includes education on your medications, nutritional needs, and how to care for yourself and your incision after you leave the hospital.

After Surgery: Your long-term care agreements

We will follow your health closely for 2 years post-surgery, during which you'll have scheduled follow-up care and lab work. You're expected to comply with this arrangement and must agree to do so if you wish to be a donor. You must also agree to have regular preventive care with your primary care provider for the rest of your life.

About UC Davis Health

The UC Davis Living Liver Transplant Program is a comprehensive program offering treatment and hope for patients across Northern California with advanced liver disease, including cirrhosis and liver cancer. Our expert team includes experienced transplant surgeons, hepatologists, and nurses, backed by the resources and technology of the nationally ranked, Magnet-designated UC Davis Medical Center and the National Cancer Institute-designated UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center.

This program builds upon the history and expertise of the UC Davis Transplant Center, which launched its liver transplant and hepatobiliary surgery programs in July 2023. Additionally, our center regularly ranks among the nation's top kidney transplant programs by volume.



Important Contacts and Information

UC Davis Transplant Center Phone Number: (916) 734-2111

Weekdays: If you have questions call your live donor coordinator. If the coordinator is unable to reach you directly, a voicemail message will be left.

Weekends, Nights, and Holidays: Please remember that after hour calls are for urgent needs only. There is a coordinator on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **Call and follow the instructions to have someone paged.**

If you have an emergency, go directly to the closest emergency room, or dial 911.

UC Davis Transplant Center

The UC Davis Transplant Center clinic is in the Cypress outpatient building. This is where you will see the surgeon and the liver transplant team members before and after surgery.

The address is 2221 Stockton Blvd, Suite C, Sacramento CA 95817.

UC Davis Medical Center

The UC Davis Medical Center is where surgery takes place.

The address is 2315 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95817