

ABO Blood Group	The blood type.
Allograft	Organ or tissue transplants between individuals of the same species.
Anencephaly	Congenital absence of brain and spinal cord.
Antibody	A protein substance developed by the body's immune system in response to a foreign substance.
Antigen	A molecule, substance or foreign tissue that triggers an immune response. The most common immune response is the production of antibodies which in turn, activate the antigen.
AOPO	Association of Organ Procurement Organizations.
Artificial Kidney	A dialysis machine that takes the place of the human body in removing fluids and toxic wastes from the body.
Autoimmunity	Antibodies are produced against the body's own tissue. Rheumatoid arthritis and scleroderma are examples of some forms of autoimmunity.
Bone Marrow Transplant	Bone marrow is removed from a healthy individual and given to a patient in need of it. The most common reasons for a bone marrow transplant are leukemia and aplastic anemia.
<a href="#">Brain Death</a>	Total and irreversible cessation of all brain functions including the brain stem. Demonstrated by lack of responsiveness to stimuli, absence of all reflexes, absence of spontaneous breathing. An EEG or other tests may be utilized by the physician to establish brain death.
Brain Stem	Stem-like extension of the brain that controls heart beat and respiration.
Cadaveric Donor	A deceased organ and tissue donor usually unrelated to the recipient.
CCOD	California Coalition on Organ Donation.
Cornea	Clear, transparent, outer surface of the eye.
Crossmatch	A test for compatibility of the serum and or cells of donors and recipients. A positive crossmatch is one that shows the donor and recipient to be incompatible. A negative crossmatch is one that shows no reaction between the donor and recipient, meaning they are compatible.
CTDN	California Transplant Donor Network.
Cyclosporine	A drug used in organ transplantation that suppresses the immune system of the recipient so that the transplanted organ will not be rejected by the body's normal immune response.
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services.
Dialysis	Process of removing toxins or waste products of metabolism, and fluid from the blood. Normally the kidneys perform this function, but if they are damaged by disease or trauma, then dialysis must be used.
Donor Card	Document used by a person who wishes to make an anatomical gift after death, Donor cards are printed on the back of driver's licenses in many states. Donor cards can be obtained by calling 1-800-55-DONOR at the California Transplant Donor Network.
Electrocardiogram	A record of the electrical activity of the heart used EKG/ECG to identify problems with the heart muscles and heart rhythms.
Electroencephalogram	A record of electrical activity of the brain. EEG
ESRD	End stage renal disease.

Extrarenal Organ	Any organ other than the kidney.
Fistula	The surgical joining of an artery and a vein in order to provide vascular access for dialysis.
Glomerulonephritis	The inflammation of the glomeruli of the kidney.
Graft	Tissue or organ that is transplanted or implanted into the body to repair a defect or replace a permanently damaged organ.
Heart-Lung Machine	A machine that pumps blood and oxygenates it while the heart and/or lungs are not functioning such as during heart surgery.
HRSA	Health Resource Services Administration.
Immune Response	The body's defense against foreign substances that could be harmful – such as bacteria or foreign tissue.
Immunosuppression	The artificial suppression of the immune response – usually through drugs – so that the body will not reject a transplanted organ or tissue. Drugs commonly used to suppress the immune system after transplantation include Prednisone, Imuran and Cyclosporine.
Kidney	The organ (individuals normally have two kidneys) that is responsible for the removal of toxic waste from the body as urine. The kidneys maintain the body's fluid balance and keep important substances in equilibrium in the body.
Living Related Donor	A person who is in good health and donates an organ to a biologically related relative.
Lymphocyte	A white blood cell of which there are several types important to the immune response.
Multi-Organ Donor	An organ donor from whom more than one type of organ is removed.
Nephrectomy	Surgical removal of the kidney.
NCOD	National Coalition on Organ Donation.
NKF	National Kidney Foundation.
OPO	This is an Organ Procurement Organization responsible for donor identification and care, organ removal and preservation, and transplantation of organs. OPOs employ transplant coordinators who work with donor families and also provide educational programs to hospitals. OPOs are independent organizations not affiliated with any particular hospital but serve many hospitals.
OPTN	Organ Procurement Transplant Network. Founded by UNOS.
Peritoneal Dialysis	A type of dialysis that uses a membrane (surrounding the abdominal cavity) to filter the blood of its toxins and wastes.
Preservation of Organs	The technique used to keep organs or tissues viable once they are removed from the donor. Preservation fluids and reduced temperatures assist in preserving organs. Organs have limited preservation time.
Rejection	The immune process of ridding the body of foreign tissue by production of antibodies and inflammation.
Routine Required Request	Legislation requiring hospitals to have, in writing and in practice, protocols for requesting organ/tissue donation from families of potential donors.
Tissue Typing	The process of identifying antigens which are individual to each person.
Transplantation	Surgical placement of an organ or tissue from a donor into a recipient.
TRIO	Transplant Recipients International Organization. Volunteer based organization.

UNOS  
(United Network for  
Organ Sharing)

Non-profit organization that operates the National Organ Procurement and Network in the U.S. All transplant centers, OPOs and tissue typing laboratories are required members of the United Network for Organ Sharing. UNOS members set policy for transplantation in the U.S. and conduct professional education programs for transplant personnel.

Zenograft

Organ or tissue grafts between different species.