

# Hepatitis C Antibody Positive, PCR NAT negative (HCV Ab+/NAT-) Donor: Recipient Consent

All kidney donors entered into the ANZKX program have had a detailed assessment. This includes testing for infections that could be transmitted from the donor to the recipient.

Some donor's blood test results show they have previously had infection with hepatitis C virus but they no longer have the virus.

These people have antibodies against hepatitis C in their blood (HCV Ab+) but no virus can be detected (PCR- or NAT-).

If a donor has these results, then they can be considered as a kidney donor.

## What does HCV Ab+, PCR- or NAT- blood test in a donor mean?

An HCV Ab+ / PCR- or NAT- donor can mean one of several things.

Most HCV Ab+/NAT- donors have had previous hepatitis C infection but no longer have the virus.

Occasionally these results are incorrect and the donor has never had hepatitis C. In this situation there are no risks of transmission to a recipient.

The tests on donors are done more than once to try to make sure that the virus is detected even if it is at very low levels.

## What are the risks of receiving a kidney transplant HCV Ab+, PCR- or NAT- Donor?

We believe the risks of transplantation with a kidney from a HCV Ab+ and PCR- or NAT- donor are extremely low.

Kidneys from deceased donors with these blood test results are now accepted for people on the transplant waiting list.

Some people receiving a kidney from one of these donors also develop a positive hepatitis C antibody test (HCV Ab+ in blood tests). This occurs in about 40% of people, or 4 out of every 10. However, this result does not affect their health and they are very unlikely to get the virus.

## Is there a treatment for hepatitis C?

If someone does develop hepatitis C, there are now treatments that can cure the virus in most people. These treatments are successful in more than 95% of people.



**Consent to accept a kidney in a donor who is HCV Ab+/NAT-**

Some living kidney donors who test positive for hepatitis C antibody want to be part of the ANZKX Program because they are incompatible with their intended recipient.

You have been matched to a donor who is HCV Ab+/NAT-.

You may elect to accept or decline matching to such a donor.

Your transplant team will explain to you what accepting a kidney from such a donor means for you.

If you agree to accept a kidney from a HCV Ab+/NAT- donor from within the ANZKX Program, we ask you to sign this consent form and agree that a copy is sent to the ANZKX Coordination Centre.

*Please circle Yes or No*

Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have been fully informed about hepatitis C (HCV Ab+/NAT-) and the effects of donation from such a donor.</li> <li><b><u>I consent to accept</u></b> a kidney from a hepatitis C (HCV Ab+/NAT-) donor.</li> </ul>
No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have been fully informed about hepatitis C (HCV Ab+/NAT-) and the effects of donation from such a donor.</li> <li><b><u>I do not consent to accept</u></b> a kidney from a hepatitis C (HCV Ab+/NAT-) donor.</li> </ul>

I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

**Please ONLY sign in the presence of the interviewer**

Surname/family name .....

Given name.....

Date of birth ..... / ..... / .....

Signature.....

Date ..... / ..... /.....

**Witness (Doctor or Transplant Coordinator)**

Surname/family name .....

Given name.....

Signature.....

Date ..... / ..... /.....



**Bibliography and additional information on this topic:**

1. Transplanting hepatitis C – Positive Kidneys  
Reese, Abt, Blumberg, Goldberg  
New England Journal of Medicine 2015: 373: 303-305
2. Maximising utilization of the donor pool by appropriate classification of hepatitis C antibody positive donors  
Goldberg, Wolfe  
American Journal of Transplantation Oct 2018: Vol 18, Issue 10: 2380-81
3. Transplantation of hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibody positive, nucleic acid test negative donor kidneys to HCV negative patients frequently results in seroconversion but not HCV viraemia  
De Vera, Volk et al  
American Journal of Transplantation Oct 2018: Vol 18, Issue 10: 2451-56
4. Trends in Utilization of deceased donor kidneys based on hepatitis C virus status and impact of public health service labelling on discard  
Ariyamuthu, Sandjkcj, Abdulrahim, Hwang, MacConmara, Parasuraman , Atis Tanriover  
Transplant Infectious Disease: Vol 22, Feb 1 2020 e13204
5. Hepatitis C information:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/cfaq.htm>
6. <https://www.gesa.org.au/resources/hepatitis-c-treatment/>
7. <https://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/page/treatment/drugs>

