

# Paired Kidney Donation Saves Lives

**When kidney disease leads to kidney failure, a transplant may be the best option.**

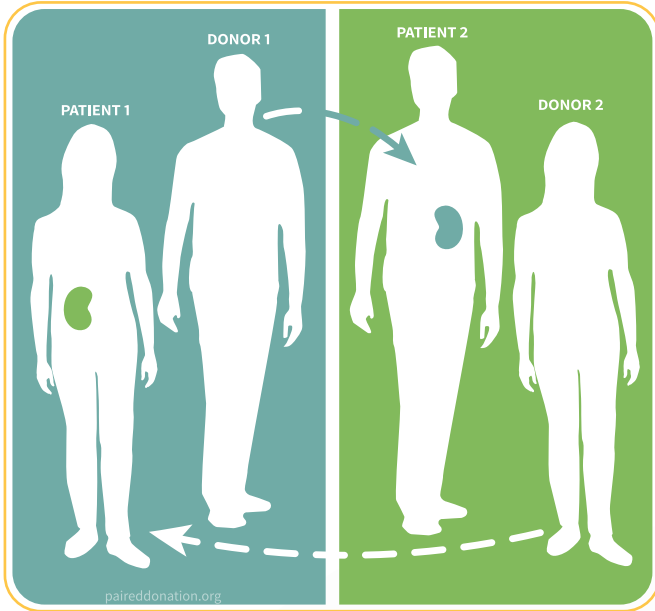
When a patient needs a new kidney, organ donation provides a way for them to receive one. This allows the recipient to regain a normal and healthy life. A new kidney can come from a living donor or a deceased donor. A new kidney must meet matching criteria for the recipient's anatomy to ensure the organ remains healthy for years to come.

**Many times, a family member or friend is willing to donate their kidney for their loved one.**

It is common that the family or friend may not match or could be a better match for a different patient in need of a kidney. When a patient and willing donor do not match, they are called an incompatible pair. This is where paired kidney donation can help the patient find the best match possible.

INCOMPATIBLE PAIR 1

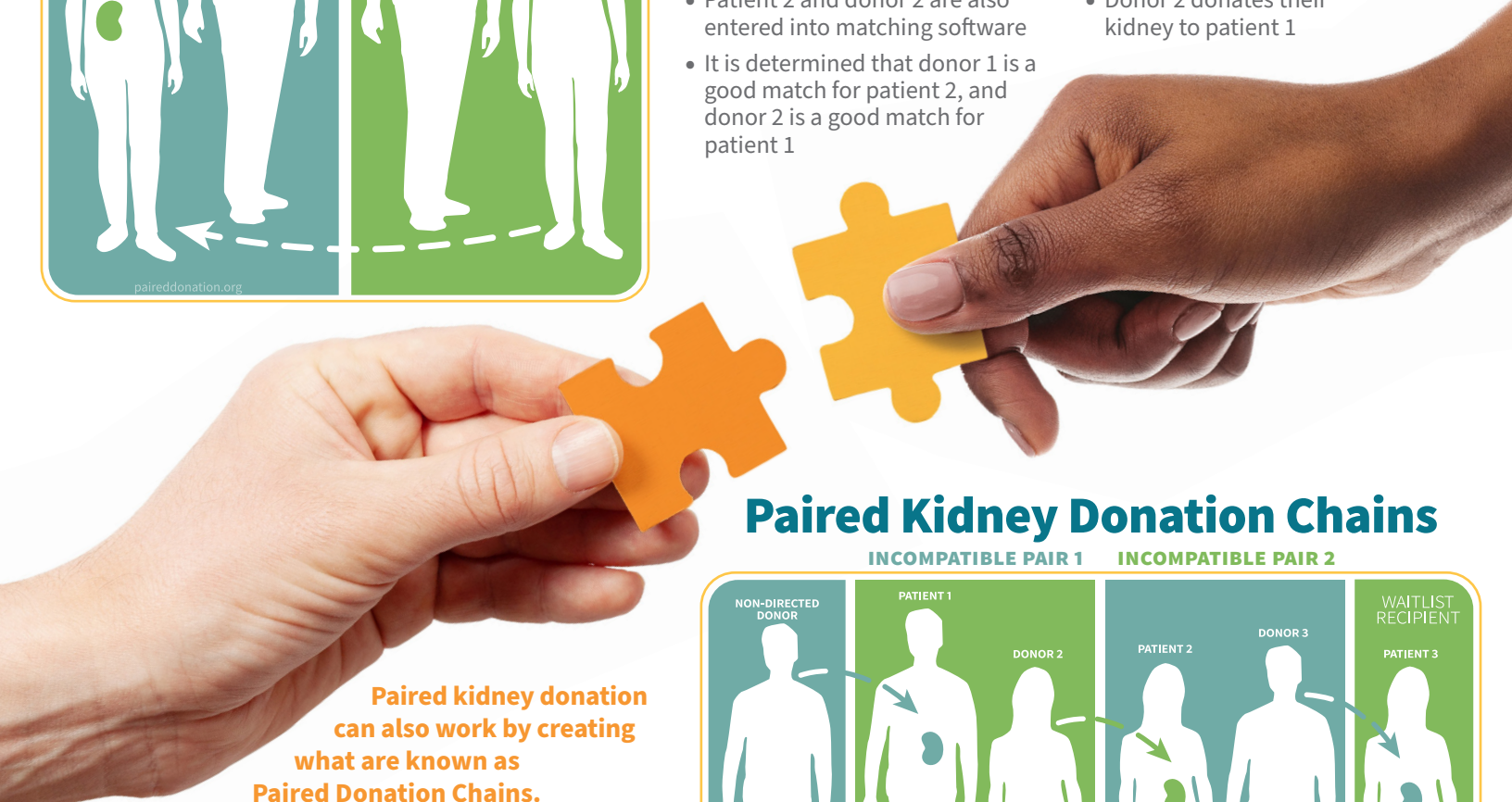
INCOMPATIBLE PAIR 2



**Through Paired Kidney Donation, two patients can receive new kidneys. Without it, both may stay on the waitlist and possibly never find a good match.**

**The incompatible pair is tested and the paired donation process begins:**

- Patient 1 and donor 1 are entered into kidney matching software
- Patient 2 and donor 2 are also entered into matching software
- It is determined that donor 1 is a good match for patient 2, and donor 2 is a good match for patient 1
- Donor 1 donates their kidney to patient 2
- Donor 2 donates their kidney to patient 1



**Paired kidney donation can also work by creating what are known as Paired Donation Chains.**

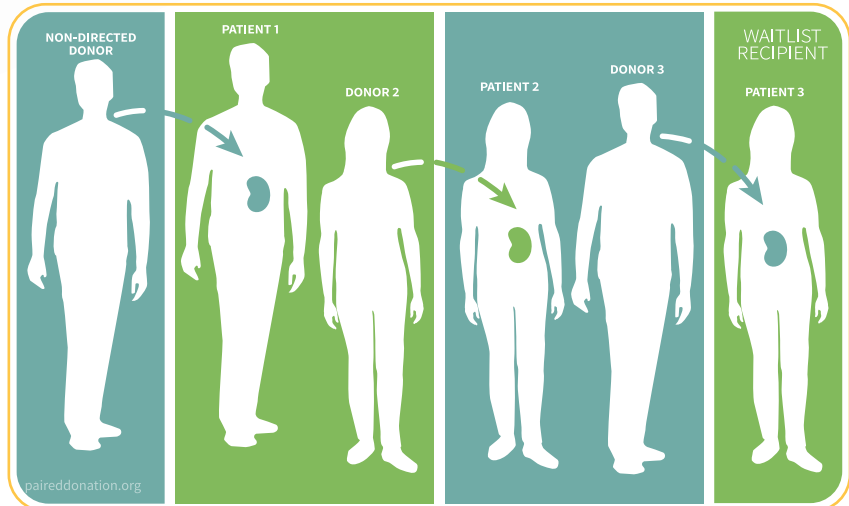
These paired kidney donation chains allow for three or more patients to receive a kidney at once.

- Patients 1, 2 and 3 are entered into a kidney matching system along with donors 1, 2 and 3
- Non-directed donor 1 donates to patient 1
- Incompatible donor 2 donates to Patient 2
- Donor 3 donates to patient 3 from the national kidney transplant waitlist

**Now, three patients have new kidneys.**

## Paired Kidney Donation Chains

INCOMPATIBLE PAIR 1 INCOMPATIBLE PAIR 2



Paired kidney donation chains can be longer than three people. In fact, the longest chain included sixteen transplants! A deceased donor can be used to help complete a paired donation chain. **Paired kidney donation can also take place across long distances.** Once a kidney is removed for transplantation, it can be transported to another location where a patient is waiting.