

What is a Paired Exchange?

A paired exchange is when a person who is not a good match genetically but still wants to donate a kidney to a loved one gives his kidney to someone else that needs a transplant as well. Then the other persons live donor gives the kidney to the original person.

For example:

Tim wants to give a kidney to Stephen but they are not a genetic match. Sue wants to give a kidney to Bob but they are not a genetic match. However, Tim's kidney is a genetic match to Bob and Sue is a genetic match to Stephen. Sue will have an operation, possibly far from home, near Stephen to donate her kidney to him, but for Bob so that he can have a live donor as well. Then Tim may have to travel as far way as Ohio to give his kidney to Bob, but it is done so that Bob can have a live donor and a longer fuller life. This has just begun at Florida Hospital South but has been done at other hospitals. It greatly increases a person's chance of getting a living donor and having a longer fuller life.