

Facility Name: University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model

This kidney transplant hospital has been selected by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model. The IOTA Model aims to increase access to life-saving transplants for patients living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and reduce Medicare expenditures.



How does participation in the IOTA Model work?

- ▶ This model focuses on providing incentives to selected kidney transplant hospitals to increase transplantation and is designed to support greater care coordination, improved patient-centeredness in the process of being waitlisted for and receiving a kidney transplant, and greater access to kidney transplants.
- ▶ Through the IOTA Model payments and policies, CMS aims to increase the care delivery capabilities and efficiency of kidney transplant hospitals selected for participation, with the goal of improving quality of care while reducing unnecessary spending. The IOTA Model only affects payments in Original Medicare and does not affect payments or services for Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, or private health insurance plans.



How does the IOTA Model affect me, the Medicare patient?

- ▶ **As a patient, the IOTA Model does not change your existing Medicare benefits, choices, or protections.** We cannot limit your choice of health care providers or Medicare-covered medically necessary services or treatment options. You still have the right to visit any doctor, hospital, or other provider that accepts Original Medicare at any time, just like you do now.



What information will be shared about me?

- ▶ Medicare shares information about your care with your health care providers such as dates and times you visited a health care provider and your medical conditions. Sharing your data helps make sure all the providers involved in your care have access to your health information when and where they need it.
- ▶ **We value your privacy.** IOTA participants must put important safeguards in place to make sure all your health care information is safe. We respect your choice on how your health care information is used for care coordination and quality improvement
- ▶ If you **don't** want Medicare to share your health care data information, **call 1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227). Tell the representative that your health care provider is part of the IOTA Model, and you don't want Medicare to share your health care information. Beneficiaries who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have speech disabilities should call 1-877-486-2048.



How can I make the most of getting care from the IOTA Model?

- ▶ As a Medicare patient, you can choose or change your provider at any time. Your nephrologist is the health care provider responsible for coordinating your overall care for your kidney-related disease. Your nephrologist can help you make informed decisions about your health care, track your treatment, and monitor your health outcomes.



What if I have concerns about being part of the IOTA Model?

- ▶ If you have questions or concerns about the quality of care or other services you receive from your provider, you can contact **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. You may also visit the website: <https://www.Medicare.gov>.
- ▶ If you suspect *Medicare fraud or abuse from your IOTA provider* or any Medicare provider, we encourage you to make a report by contacting the HHS Office of Inspector General (1-800-HHS-TIPS).
- ▶ If you believe your *privacy rights have been violated*, you may file a privacy complaint with CMS (visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov), or call 1-800-MEDICARE) or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (visit hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint). Filing a complaint won't affect your coverage under Medicare.



For more information on the Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model, visit:
<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/iota>

Original Content from IOTA participant:

Disclaimer: The statements contained below are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The authors assume responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained below in this document:

What UAB wants you to know:

- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has selected UAB and more than 100 other transplant centers to be a part of a new program to help more people get kidney transplants and make care better for patients with kidney disease.
- UAB's goal has always been to help make transplant possible for as many people as we can and to provide the best care for our patients - this will not change with this new program.
- You will get notices like this even if you don't have Medicare.
- This project also doesn't change your Medicare benefits. You can still go to any doctor or hospital that takes Medicare, just like before.
- Your doctors may share health info with each other to give you better care, but your privacy is protected.
- You can say no to sharing your health info by calling Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.
- If you have questions or problems about IOTA, you can call Medicare or visit their website for help.
- You may hear from us more often because we'll be sharing updates about your health information.
- ***UAB is always here for you and wants to give you the very best care.***



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Kidney and Simultaneous Kidney & Pancreas Transplant Selection Criteria

Reasons a patient WILL NOT be able to receive a kidney or simultaneous kidney & pancreas transplant:

- Active alcohol or drug abuse
- Severe heart disease with heart failure (Ejection fraction less than 20% by echocardiogram)
- Serious lung disease with severe breathing difficulty based on breathing tests, and on continuous 24 hours per day home oxygen
- History of having a certain type of surgery to improve circulation to the legs, called *aortobifemoral bypass grafting* or stenting
- Active chronic liver disease with evidence of portal hypertension
- Severely overweight (body mass index greater than 50)
- Long history of non-adherence with medical therapy
- Dependence on nursing home or other long-term provider
- Uncontrolled psychiatric disease
- Reversible kidney failure
- *Simultaneous Kidney & Pancreas Only:*
 - Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 35
 - 65 years of age or older
 - Severe peripheral vascular disease and iliac disease with or without major amputation
 - Severe or uncorrectable heart disease or significant cardiac dysfunction (Ejection fraction less than 30%)

Reasons a patient MAY NOT be able to receive a kidney or simultaneous kidney & pancreas transplant:

- Greater than 70 years old
- Calciphylaxis (calcific uremic arteriolopathy) – previous or current
- Active cancer, except indolent or low-grade cancers such as prostate cancer (Gleason score ≤ 6) and incidentally detected kidney tumors ≤ 1 cm max diameter
- Multiple myeloma, light chain deposition disease or heavy chain deposition disease unless they have received a potentially curative treatment regimen and are in stable remission
- AL amyloidosis with significant extrarenal involvement
- Uncorrected ischemic cardiomyopathy
- Non-ischemic cardiomyopathy with an ejection fraction less than 40%
- Moderate to severe aortoiliac calcifications.
- Severe peripheral occlusive vascular disease (poor circulation)
- Chronic hypotension or hypotension on dialysis requiring pressors (e.g. midodrine)
- Pulmonary hypertension with PASP greater than 50mm/Hg
- Active untreated infections (e.g. tuberculosis, fungal infections)
- Significant history of non-adherence with medical therapy, including dialysis
- Significant functional/cognitive impairment without reliable caregiver
- Resources deemed inadequate to support necessary post-transplant care, including not having a

reliable caregiver plan

- Active symptomatic: peptic ulcer disease, diverticulitis, acute pancreatitis, gallstone/gallbladder disease, or inflammatory bowel disease
- High ostomy output
- Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 40
- Active Tobacco or Marijuana Use of any type (vaping, gummies, chew, dip, etc.)
- Sickle Cell Disease
- *Simultaneous Kidney & Pancreas Only:*
 - History of cancer treated within the last 2 years, except for non-melanoma skin cancer

Please visit uabmedicine.org/kidneytransplant or call 888-822-7892 for more information