

Careers Associated With Transplantation

Career opportunities in medicine are on the rise and the donation and transplantation field is no exception. Anyone who chooses a career in this field will enter one of the most challenging and rapidly changing areas of medicine and also one where they can expect to help save the lives of countless people. Below are just some of the careers in the organ donation and transplantation field.

Procurement Coordinators are members of organ recovery organizations, typically a nurse, who is responsible for evaluating potential donors, discussing donation with family members, and managing the donor prior to the organ recovery process.

Physicians diagnose and treat diseases that may result in organ failure, provide treatment and prescribe medication for individuals who are waiting for an organ transplant or have undergone transplantation.

Dialysis Technicians oversee the process of safely administering dialysis to kidney patients. Patients with failing kidneys who are waiting for a transplant must have dialysis to keep their bodies cleansed of impurities that healthy kidneys would normally eliminate.

Operating Room Nurses treat organ transplant recipients and donors, as well as assist in surgery during organ, eye and tissue transplantation.

Lab Technicians are trained in the life sciences that help catalog, store and test tissues, blood samples and other important information.

Immunologists are research scientists who study the body's immune system and help develop ways for the body to more effectively accept a transplanted organ with fewer side effects.

Researchers in the field of medicine - chemists, biologists, radiologists, and others with training and/or experience in the life sciences - help develop new drug treatments, methods of transplantation and ways of treating organ recipients.

Pharmacists accurately and safely counsel patients on the proper use and adverse effects of prescription medicines and their interactions.

Transplant Coordinators are members of the transplant center staff responsible for managing the care and progress of potential transplant recipients before, during and after the transplantation.

Physical Therapists develop and help administer exercise programs that enable organ recipients to recover their physical strength and resume their normal activities.

Radiologists are medical doctors who specialize in diagnosing and treating disease and injuries using medical imaging techniques such as x-rays and ultrasounds.

Transplant Surgeons specialize in the recovery and transplantation of organs.