



Australian Government
Department of Health

Ms Felicity McNeill PSM
Chief Executive Office (a/g)
Organ and Tissue Authority
PO Box 295
Civic Square ACT 2608

Dear Ms McNeill

Medicare requirements for kidney transplants

Thank you for your letter of 21 October 2016 to Kathy Dennis, Assistant Secretary, Hospital and Acute Services Branch regarding access to Medicare for kidney transplants. As your question relates to Medicare eligibility I am responding.

On 9 October 2008, Ms Sanchez, Medicare Australia wrote to Sydney South West Area Health Service, confirming that all public health system medical costs of a non-Medicare eligible living kidney donor can be claimed under the kidney transplant recipient's Medicare card. There has been no change to these arrangements and this policy position remains current.

Australian residents who receive a kidney donated by a Medicare ineligible living donor are considered to be beneficiaries of the medical services provided to the kidney donor to give effect to the transplant. Therefore, medical expenses associated with the medical services provided to a Medicare ineligible living donor, for the purposes of the kidney donation, are covered under the Medicare entitlement of the Medicare eligible transplant recipient.

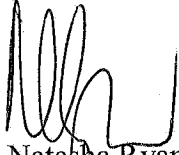
Eligibility to Medicare is generally restricted to people who permanently reside in Australia and are Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens who are lawfully in Australia or permanent visa holders. The Government also provides access to Medicare for specific asylum seekers in line with the Government's humanitarian objectives.

Asylum seekers with the following temporary visas are granted access to Medicare and the arrangements for kidney transplantation from a non-Medicare eligible donor would apply:

- Humanitarian visa subclass 786
- Return Pending visa subclass 695
- Removal Pending Bridging visa 070
- Temporary Protection visa subclass 785
- Entry visa subclass 447
- Bridging visa E (Class WE)
- Temporary Humanitarian Stay visa subclass 449
- Safe Haven visa subclass 790

You have also sought advice on temporary Australian visa holders who have access to Medicare and their entitlement to be waitlisted for a deceased donor organ. Decisions to waitlist any patient for a deceased donor organ is a matter for the treating clinician.

Yours sincerely



Natasha Ryan

A/g First Assistant Secretary
Medical Benefits Division
Department of Health

15 November 2016