Liver Transplant FAQs

How do I decide between a living donor vs. a deceased donor transplant?  
We’ll discuss this more with you during evaluation; however, finding a living donor can dramatically reduce waiting time.

How do I find a living donor?  
Living donors can be a parent donating to his/her child or one adult donating to another. Potential donors include family members, friends, and others in your community who have heard you need for kidney donation.

How long will I need to wait for a liver transplant?  
The waiting time for a liver transplant with a deceased-donor organ is by disease severity as calculated by your MELD score. A good idea is to track your MELD score as an approximate indicator of your liver’s health.

How long will I be in the hospital after my liver transplant?  
The length of hospitalization after a liver transplantation varies based on many factors. Recipients who are already in the intensive care unit prior to their transplants are typically hospitalized for about a month. Recipients who are living at home before their liver transplants are usually hospitalized for about two weeks.

When will I fully recover?  
Most patients need three to six months before they feel completely recovered from surgery. During this period, as their strength increases, they return to household activities and work.

For more information on our Liver Transplant Program Coordinator, please call (520) 694-7365.