



Transplant Times

Organ Transplant Awareness Program
PO Box 37217, Abq, NM 87176
organdonation@otapnm.com 505.299.5955
January 2023

Promoting Organ Donor Awareness; Supporting the Transplant Community

www.otapnm.com

Support Group: January 6, 2023, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Cheers to a Happy and Healthy New Year!

In 2022 the United States surpassed one million transplants. There are approximately 105,000 currently on the wait list nationwide and 632 in New Mexico. Last August, Chris Foley and I, met with Jason Jarvis, field representative for Senator Martin Heinrich, to advocate for the American Liver Foundation's legislative agenda. Since then Senator Martin Heinrich has become a co sponsor of the Safe Step Act that would allow exemptions to current medication protocols. Enclosed is information on the new Medicare Part B Immunosuppressive Drug Benefit (effective January 1, 2024), that will cover anti- rejection medications for kidney recipients who have no other health insurance.

We will continue our work to increase the number of registered organ donors in New Mexico and support our transplant community. - Evelyn

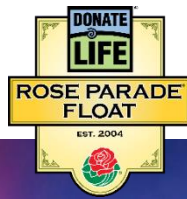


Happy Anniversary!

Doris Alrich
Linda Weil

1st Kidney Transplant
Kidney Transplant

January 6, 2014
January 12, 2012

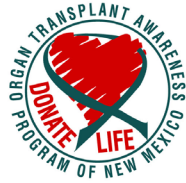


Lifting Each Other Up

For the past 20 years, the Donate Life Rose Parade® float has inspired people across the country and around the world to save and heal lives with the powerful message of organ, eye and tissue donation. The 2023 Rose Parade® theme, ***Turning the Corner***, celebrates the opportunity of rising above and embracing a fresh start, full of hope and joy. Organ, eye and tissue donation brings the Donate Life community together to embrace the gift of life, giving hope to both donor families and grateful recipients.

The 2023 Donate Life Rose Parade® float, ***Lifting Each Other Up***, celebrates the power of organ, eye and tissue donation, with donors and recipients working together to support one another. A spectacular Chinese street dragon is the centerpiece of the float. In the Chinese culture, dragons symbolize great power, good luck and strength. They bring prosperity and abundance. A colorful dragon winds through flowering trees, lanterns and fans, and is emblazoned with 44 memorial florigraphs, representing those who have given the gift of life. The dragon will be supported on poles by living donors, and surrounded by organ, eye and tissue recipients, whose lives have been transformed and have turned the corner to a more prosperous future, thanks to those who said “YES” to organ, eye and tissue donation, and who are supporting their life journey. A traditional paifang bridge is featured in the back of the float, with a special message in mandarin that highlights the power of the Gift of Life.

As the world's most visible campaign to inspire organ, eye and tissue donation, the Donate Life Rose Parade® float inspires viewers to save and heal more than one million people in need of organ, eye and tissue transplants each year. Register today to become an organ, eye or tissue donor by visiting www.DonateLife.net.



2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Cell Phone _____

Email address for organization communications only _____

_____ I would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.

_____ \$15 Individual membership _____ \$25 Family membership _____ Donation

All contributions are tax deductible

Please make checks payable and mail to: **PO Box 37217**
Albuquerque, NM 87176

_____ **Candidate:** Organ/Tissue Type: _____ Date Listed _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Recipient:** Organ/Tissue Type: _____ Date Received _____ / _____ / _____

2nd transplant date –month day year: _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Donor/member of a Donor Family:** Donor Name _____ Organ/Tissue Type _____

Transplant date –month/day/year: _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Friend of OTAP**

Opportunities - Please check all that apply:

I would like to volunteer: promotional events _____ fundraising events _____

Personal information such as phone number _____ and address _____ may be shared with others.

I would like to be a reader for the scholarship award _____

Suggestions _____

Thank You for your support!



Organ Transplant Awareness Program Organ Donation Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors!

This is an essay contest sponsored by Organ Transplant Awareness Program of New Mexico. One \$500 scholarship will be awarded in Memory of Nancy Dodge, kidney recipient.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to promote organ and tissue donation as an important social responsibility while assisting New Mexico youth with higher education. Currently 700 New Mexicans await life-saving organ transplants. Unfortunately, many of these candidates will die before suitable organs and/or tissues become available. By increasing awareness of organ and tissue donation, we help people make informed decisions about registering to be an organ donor.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- High school senior enrolled in New Mexico public, private or home school.
- A grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale.
- Intend to enroll in an accredited college, university, or vocational-technical school.

TO APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP

1. Complete the attached application.
2. You may choose to write your essay on either of two topics:
 - a.) A Personal Story involving organ transplant or tissue donation.
 - b.) An Informative Essay on organ transplant or tissue donation.
3. **All essays must be a minimum 2 full pages or maximum 4 pages, 1" margins, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times Roman font. Essay is to be in your own words, no citations or reference page.** Place title on top of page 1 (12 pt Times Roman).

SELECTION PROCESS

- The selection committee will evaluate each application and essay and notify the winner by April 1, 2023.

The award will be sent to the institution the student plans to attend. The award may be utilized for tuition, fees, or books. Recipient will need to provide OTAP with the student's ID number and the address of the financial aid office. Student agrees to publication of the essay in local news media and will provide a photo for such purpose.



Essay Contest Application Form

Deadline February 14, 2023

Title of Essay _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ Email _____ Phone _____

High School _____ Grade Point Average _____

Describe any extra-curricular activities, school and/or community.

List the College, University, Vocational, or Technical school you plan to attend.

Please tell us about yourself, your goals, and ambitions.

Please email the application and separate essay document to organdonation@otapnm.com with **"Scholarship Essay"** in the subject field. Note: All essays will become the property of the Organ Transplant Awareness Program for the purpose of future publication in any media format including our website, otapnm.com.

Lifelong Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Medicare Part B-ID

"Extended Coverage of Immunosuppressive Drugs for Kidney Transplant Patients" (formerly known as the Immuno Bill) is now the law! Medicare will offer a new **"Part B Immunosuppressive Drug Benefit"** that will continue to **cover anti-rejection medications** (immunosuppressive medicines) for eligible kidney transplant patients even after 36 months, **if they do not have other health coverage**.

This new benefit will begin **January 1, 2023**.

1. What is covered under Medicare Part B-ID Benefit?

Covered

80% of Immunosuppressive drug costs for kidney transplant

Examples include:

- Tacrolimus (Prograf[®], Astagraf XL[®], Envarsus XR[®])
- Mycophenolate (Cellcept[®], Myfortic[®])
- Prednisone
- Cyclosporine (Neoral[®], Gengraf[®], Sandimmune[®])
- Sirolimus (Rapamune[®])
- Everolimus (Zortress[®])
- Azathioprine (Imuran[®])
- Belatacept (Nulojix[®])

NOT Covered

Any non-immunosuppressive medication

Administration fees for IV immunosuppressant medications

Suspension or solution immunosuppressant medications that are compounded at a pharmacy

Other medical expenses such as doctor visits, laboratory tests, or imaging

2. Who can enroll in the Medicare Part B-ID Benefit?

1. Kidney transplant patients currently or previously enrolled in Medicare based on a diagnosis of End-stage renal disease (ESRD)

2. Patients who do not have Medicare coverage or will lose it soon (>36 months after kidney transplant)

3. Patients who do not have other healthcare coverage such as a group or individual health plan, TRICARE for Life or Veterans Affairs benefits, or a State health plan

- If you meet all three criteria listed above, you are eligible for immunosuppressive drug coverage under the new Medicare Part B Immunosuppressive Drug Benefit.

3. How do I enroll in the Medicare Part B-ID Benefit?

Call Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-877-465-0355 and request to enroll in the Medicare Part B-ID benefit.

****This is a special phone number just for this program. You will need to complete a verbal attestation confirming eligibility to enroll in the benefit.**

*****OR*****

Download and submit the CMS 10798 enrollment form, then drop it off at a Social Security Field office or mail it to Social Security Administration; Office of Central Operations; P.O. Box 32914; Baltimore, MD 21298-2703.

Determinations will be made within 30 days, and patients are notified by mail.

4. When will Medicare Part B-ID benefit coverage start?

Enrollment *prior* to termination of ESRD-based Medicare

- The Part B-ID benefit will begin the month after termination of ESRD-based Medicare.

Enrollment *after* termination of ESRD-based Medicare

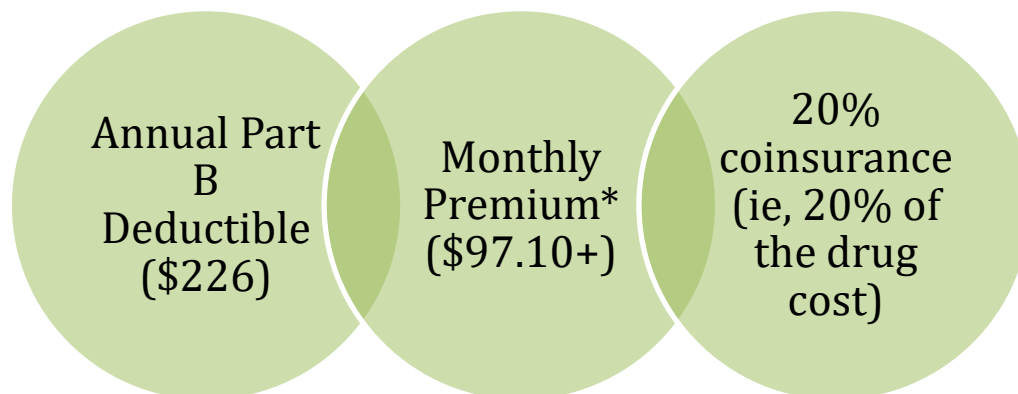
- The Part B-ID benefit will begin the month following enrollment.

If you enroll by December 31, 2022, coverage will start on January 1, 2023

5. How can I terminate this Medicare Part B-ID Benefit?

If you gain alternate health insurance at any point, you must terminate enrollment in Medicare Part B-ID within 60 days. This can be done by notifying the **Social Security Administration (SSA)** by calling at 1-877-465-0355, visiting a field office, or completing a CMS-1763 termination form.

6. What does this Part B-ID benefit cost in 2023?



Monthly premium is based on income:

Yearly income in 2021 (for what you pay in 2023)			Monthly Premium (2023)
File individual tax return	File joint tax return	File married & separate tax return	
\$97,000 or less	\$194,000 or less	\$97,000 or less	\$97.10
Above \$97,000 up to \$123,000	Above \$194,000 up to \$246,000	Not applicable	\$161.80
Above \$123,000 up to \$153,000	Above \$246,000 up to \$306,000	Not applicable	\$258.90
Above \$153,000 up to \$183,000	Above \$306,000 up to \$366,000	Not applicable	\$356.00
Above \$183,000 and less than \$500,000	Above \$366,000 and less than \$750,000	Above \$97,000 and less than \$403,000	\$453.10
\$500,000 or above	\$750,000 or above	\$403,000 or above	\$485.50

7. Is there extra help available to cover the monthly premium costs?

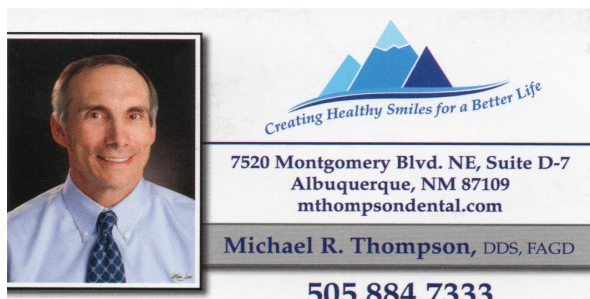
Patients with limited income and resources may be able to get help from their state through a **Medicare Savings Program**:

1. Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program
2. Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) Program
3. Qualifying Individual (QI) Program

Visit <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/help/medicare-savings-programs> to learn more about these programs and links to your state to see if you qualify

Additional Resources:

1. [National Kidney Foundation](https://www.kidney.org/atoz/content/faq-expanded-medicare-coverage-immunosuppressive-drugs-kidney-transplant-recipients) <https://www.kidney.org/atoz/content/faq-expanded-medicare-coverage-immunosuppressive-drugs-kidney-transplant-recipients>
2. [American Kidney Fund](https://www.kidneyfund.org/article/faq-new-medicare-coverage-immunosuppressive-drugs-individuals-kidney-transplants) <https://www.kidneyfund.org/article/faq-new-medicare-coverage-immunosuppressive-drugs-individuals-kidney-transplants>
3. [CMS.gov - Implementing Certain Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and other Revisions to Medicare Enrollment and Eligibility Rules \(CMS-4199-P\)](https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/implementing-certain-provisions-consolidated-appropriations-act-2021-and-other-revisions-medicare-1)
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/implementing-certain-provisions-consolidated-appropriations-act-2021-and-other-revisions-medicare-1>
4. CMS Final Rule. Nov 3, 2022. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-11-03/pdf/2022-23407.pdf>



AMAZON SMILE

Sign in to Amazon Smile and select **Organ Transplant Awareness Program of New Mexico.**

Amazon will make a donation to OTAP quarterly.

Or copy and paste this address to your browser:

Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3654972>

OTAP Mission Statement

The mission of Organ Transplant Awareness Program is to promote organ donation and support transplant community members including transplant candidates, donor families, living organ donors, transplant recipients, and transplant families. We promote organ donation by participating in a variety of community events. Our support group meets once a month for those who need support or are seeking information about the transplant process. We also advocate for social policies that promote and facilitate organ donation.

