(A) Policy Statement

For deceased donor renal transplantation, The University of Toledo Medical Center policy is that transplanting kidneys from donors positive for cytomegalovirus (CMV) exposure into recipients with no prior exposure to CMV will only be done in one of the following circumstances:

1. The donor and recipient share at a minimum 3 HLA antigen match/mismatch, or 0 DR mismatch
2. The recipient is highly sensitized, with a PRA >60%
3. The transplant surgeon feels strongly that the risk of not accepting the transplant at this time are greater than the risk of crossing CMV status

(B) Purpose of Policy

CMV is a common virus in the general population and rarely causes significant morbidity. However, CMV is more of a problem in immunosuppressed patients following transplantation in that active infections can cause serious complications. It is felt that in order to transplant kidneys from donors positive for cytomegalovirus (CMV) exposure into recipients with no prior exposure to CMV, the recipient needs to share at a minimum 3 HLA antigen match/mismatch or 0 DR mismatch with the donor. The strategy employed here is based on our belief that with a better match, there is less likelihood of requiring antibody therapy for an aggressive rejection episode post-transplantation. Thus, given less need for aggressive immunosuppression, it is less likely that such a CMV mismatch will result in the sequelae of a significant CMV infection.

(C) Procedure

1. Each potential transplant candidate is educated on CMV and its possible effects at general orientation class and again in the pre-transplant evaluation visit by the transplant coordinator and/or doctor.
2. CMV status is checked, via lab testing on all possible transplant candidates at a Pre-transplant evaluation appointment.
3. If a potential transplant candidate is found to be CMV negative, the patient is sent (via mail) a paper in regards to the implication of CMV and immunosupression, post transplant and a consent form. The patient is then asked to accept or decline crossing the CMV barrier and mail their preference sheet back to the University of Toledo Medical Center.