

Who gets the transplant?

Activity sheet – Who gets the kidney?

A young man aged 25 dies in an accident. Doctors remove or ‘harvest’ his organs for transplant. You have a list of 12 patients, all of whom desperately need a kidney transplant. You need to decide which two patients should receive a kidney. You need to give reasons for your choices to the hospital authorities. You only have a short time to make your decision.

Ivan, 52, a doctor. He has diabetes, which has caused kidney failure. He gave up smoking when he was diagnosed with diabetes and high blood pressure four years ago.	Ruth, 32, a writer. She has polycystic kidney disease (a genetic disease). Her father also had polycystic kidney disease and died aged 39. She has two children aged 8 and 10. Neither of her children has inherited the disease.
Sue, 21, left school with two GCSEs. She works as a sales assistant in a shoe shop. She has no brothers or sisters and spends a lot of time looking after her elderly parents.	Carl, 26, a builder’s labourer. He hasn’t been able to work for the last year due to illness. He has been with his girlfriend for four years and they hope to start a family soon.
Sally, 30, a single mother with two children aged three and five. Works as a casual cleaner, but hopes to go to college when her children are older.	Jill, 12, has learning difficulties and is often in trouble in school for disrupting lessons. She has an older sister. Her family raise lots of money for Kidney Research.
Roy, 40, a boat builder. West Indian. He has a drink problem. He has two children aged eight and ten. He travels 80 miles each time he goes for dialysis.	Farhana, 39, a journalist, is undergoing counselling for depression after trying to commit suicide. She has already had one kidney transplant which failed. She has two children aged 12 and 15.
Stephen, 4. He has already had five operations and spent more time in hospital than at home. He has no brothers and sisters.	Paul, 17 has eight GCSEs and is now doing A levels. He hopes to go to university. He has no brothers and sisters.
Jenny, 62, a retired teacher has kidney cancer. She spends a lot of time doing voluntary work for St. John’s Ambulance. She often looks after her three grandchildren.	Bradley, 35, an ex-Olympic 800-metres freestyle swimming champion. Blinded two years ago in an industrial accident, he is now unemployed.

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Record sheet – Who gets the kidney?

- 1 List **four** of the patients in order of priority and give your reasons. Remember to include evidence (facts) and some opinions.

Priority and name	Explain why you made this decision
1	
2	
3	
4	

- 2 Your group has chosen **two** patients. What criteria did you use when making your decision?

Name	Criteria
1	
2	