Many people with cystic fibrosis face the possibility of a lung transplant when medication can no longer support proper lung health and function. Lung transplantation can extend and improve your quality of life. It involves an extensive evaluation process and a commitment to living the lifestyle required to keep your new lungs healthy.

**What is a lung transplant?**

Lung transplant is a surgical procedure to replace your severely damaged lungs with those from a healthy organ donor.
When will I get referred to meet with a lung transplant doctor?

Your care team may refer you to meet with the transplant doctor when your FEV₁ is below 40%. This does not mean that you need a transplant right away. This meeting is meant to introduce you to transplant doctor and to learn more about the transplant process. Signs that it may be time to start thinking about transplant include:

- FEV₁ drops below 40%
- You are needing more oxygen
- Your body has trouble getting rid of carbon dioxide
- You are needing hospital admissions or IV antibiotics at home due to frequent lung episodes (3-4 yearly)
What are some qualifications?
To qualify for transplant, it is important that you are otherwise healthy so you do well with surgery. For cystic fibrosis patients it means the following:

- Good control of your sugar if you have diabetes
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Avoiding tobacco products, opioids, marijuana, illegal drugs

After transplant, you will need lots of support from family or friends, so they will be involved in the planning process.

What can I expect after I’m referred to lung transplant clinic?

- You will meet with a special team that includes a chest surgeon and a lung doctor. They will carefully review your history and discuss the process with you.
- You will have a complete evaluation, including blood work and other testing.
- You will also meet a transplant nurse, pharmacist, social worker and financial counselor to learn more about life after transplant.
- At the end of the evaluation, we will make the decision on whether lung transplant is right for you.

Transplant outcomes

How many people receive lung transplants?

- Since 1989, more than 1200 people with end stage lung disease have received lung transplants in the state of Michigan.

How long is the waitlist?

- The average time that people with cystic fibrosis have been on the transplant list in the United States was 174 days (about 6 months).
How long do transplant recipients live after transplant in the United States?
The numbers are from the years 2008-2015. These show the survival rates for lung transplant patients for each year after transplant:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>3 years</th>
<th>5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients with Cystic Fibrosis</td>
<td>92 out of 100 (92%)</td>
<td>75 out of 100 (75%)</td>
<td>62 out of 100 (62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All patients</td>
<td>88 out of 100 (88%)</td>
<td>69 out of 100 (69%)</td>
<td>53 out of 100 (53%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How can I find out more about lung transplant at Michigan Medicine?

Call:
- Call a Transplant Center Patient Care Representative: 1(800) 333-9013
- Call the Cystic Fibrosis Care Team, clinic number: (888) 287-1084

Read:
- Read about what you need to know before a lung transplant in our Patient Education Guide: http://michmed.org/5LNXB

Visit:
- Visit the Michigan Medicine Lung Transplant website: http://michmed.org/05NG5
- Visit the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Foundation website: https://tinyurl.com/r9a9w9m