

The Barry S. Levin, M.D. Department of Transplant at California Pacific Medical Center dates back to 1968, when physicians founded the Kidney Transplant Program. In 1969, our team subsequently performed its first kidney transplant. In 1984, California Pacific established its Heart Failure & Transplant Program, followed by the 1988 inception of the Liver Disease Management & Transplant Program. Since then, more than 5,000 individuals have received the “gift of life” at California Pacific: more than 4,000 individuals have received a kidney transplant, 1,300 have received a liver transplant and 350 have received a heart transplant.

Since its inception, the Department of Transplantation has had a reputation for going beyond medicine. Our team offers a unique combination of individual attention and care delivered by a dedicated team of transplant physicians and nurses. We couple this personalized care with leading edge transplant techniques and research so that patients can benefit from the latest discoveries.

History and Milestones

- 2007: California Pacific offers a Paired Kidney Donation Transplant Program—an option for patients in need of a kidney transplant who have a qualified, living donor whose blood type is incompatible. With paired donation, kidneys can sometimes be matched between two pairs, making two compatible living donor transplants possible.
- 2007: Kidney Transplant Program recognized by the U.S. Government’s Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which evaluated California Pacific’s program for best practices based on our excellent outcomes.
- 2007: The Kidney Team performs its 4000th kidney transplant.
- 2007: The Histocompatibility Lab is converted to a DNA/Molecular Laboratory, enabling the Transplant Team to do sensitive molecular testing that may help to potentially transplant more people.
- 2007: The Liver Immunology Laboratory opens under the direction of Stewart Cooper, M.D. The lab provides a hub for collaborative viral hepatitis research in the Bay Area.
- 2007 and 2006: California Pacific designated as one of the top 50 hospitals in the U.S. by the Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit organization that measures hospital quality and safety.
- 2005: California Pacific’s Kidney Transplant Program performed 58 living kidney transplants, a new annual record for our institution.
- 2004: The Heart Failure and Transplant Program celebrates its 20th year of fixing “broken” hearts, with more than 350 hearts transplanted.
- 2003: Completed our first “paired donation” kidney transplant between two pairs of living donors and recipients.
- 2002: The Liver Team performs its 1,000th liver transplant.

- 2001: The Kidney Team performs its 3000th kidney transplant.
- 2000: Initiated dual kidney transplant surgery with excellent results to help reduce waiting times for certain patient candidates.
- 2000: The FDA approves California Pacific's new heart preservation solution, which allows the organ to survive outside the body for up to 24 hours before being transplanted.
- 1999: Opened a five-bed Transitional Cardiac Care Unit (TCCU) dedicated to caring for the special needs of heart transplant and heart failure patients.
- 1999: First center in Northern California to put a patient on an FDA-approved Liver Assist Device.
- 1998: California Pacific was the first kidney transplant program in the San Francisco Bay Area to perform a laparoscopic nephrectomy.
- 1997: Two new Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories opened, with state-of-the-art equipment to provide the most accurate diagnoses and treatment assessments for patients with heart disease.
- 1996: The Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) was approved by the FDA for commercial distribution. California Pacific Medical Center cardiovascular surgeons have performed many life-saving procedures using the device.
- 1995: First kidney transplant outreach coordinator was hired to help evaluate people for kidney transplant in local communities. Now, approximately 1,900 kidney transplant patients visit our outreach sites each year.
- 1993: The Kidney Team performs its 2000th kidney transplant.
- 1988: California Pacific Medical Center opens its Liver Transplant Program and starts outreach clinics in local communities. Now, our hepatology team sees 5,300 patients annually at outreach sites in Northern California and Nevada.
- 1987: The Kidney Team performs its 1000th kidney transplant.
- 1984: California Pacific Medical Center was the first center in the nation to successfully bridge a patient to transplant using a biventricular assist device (BiVAD).
- 1984: California Pacific Medical Center opens the nation's first heart transplant service in a private institution under the direction of J. Donald Hill, M.D. The heart service also includes a Heart Failure Program that seeks to forestall or eliminate the need for transplantation through state-of-the-art medical therapy and clinical trials of vasodilators and inotropic drugs.
- 1982: The first pancreas transplant at California Pacific Medical Center is performed under the direction of Surgeon Derek Sampson, M.D.
- 1980: Northern California Transplant Bank opens at Pacific Medical Center and becomes one of the nation's most comprehensive centers for bone and tissue transplantation.
- 1969: First kidney transplant performed at California Pacific Medical Center (formerly Presbyterian Hospital).
- 1968: Kidney Transplant Program opens under the direction of Transplant Surgeon Bill Kerth, M.D.