

STATION 2 ACTIVITIES

EXERCISE

DIRECTIONS

Use the information about the organ donor and the criteria below to determine the best match for the donor heart. Base your decision upon **science**, not emotion.

BACKGROUND OF DONOR

A young man who lives in Denver, Colorado suffers a brain injury caused by a motorcycle accident. He is pronounced brain dead at a local hospital and his heart is now available for transplant. He is 30 years old, 6 feet tall, approximately 155 pounds. You have 6 people who are potential matches to the donor. Using the criteria listed below, determine which candidate is best one to receive this heart.

CRITERIA

› Height and weight (body size)

Are there any candidates that are simply the wrong size to receive this organ? If so, you must rule them out and they must continue to wait for a better match.

REMEMBER: A person's heart is roughly the size of their closed fist. Imagine how large each of the candidates hearts would be. The size of the heart they receive must be a close match for a successful transplant.

› Age

Are the remaining candidates too young or too old to receive this organ? If so, you must rule them out and they must continue to wait for a better match.

REMEMBER: A person is never too old or too young to donate or receive a transplant. Doctors will do their best to match the age of the recipient with the donor.

› Geographic location

Look at the region map on page 30 and determine which region the donor is in. Do all your remaining candidates live in the same or close region? If not, they must wait for a heart to become available in their region.

REMEMBER: A heart must be transplanted within 4-6 hours of recovery.

› Current state of health

Are all of the remaining candidates healthy enough to endure the transplant procedure? If they aren't, they must continue to wait.

REMEMBER: A person who has an active infection would be considered high risk for receiving a transplant and be temporarily removed from the waiting list. Once the infection has been successfully treated, the patient could again be listed for transplant.

› Urgency of need

Of the remaining candidates, who will receive the heart?

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The names and photos of all of the people below have been changed to protect their identities.

STEVEN

AGE: 14 years old
HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 140 lbs.
LIVES IN: Galveston, TX



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Freshman at Galveston Central High School
- Member of the tennis team and drama club
- Has 10-year-old twin sisters
- Parents both work at Wal-Mart
- Has damaged heart valves from a strep infection when he was little
- Has been on the Transplant Waiting List for 3 months

DEBBIE

AGE: 31 years old
HEIGHT: 5'6"
WEIGHT: 154 lbs.
LIVES IN: Cheyenne, WY



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Mother
- Husband works in sales and travels 3-4 days per week
- Must pay a Home Health Aide to help care for home and children when husband is away
- Has an enlarged heart
- Has been on the Transplant Waiting List for 5 months

DAVID

AGE: 40 years old
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 220 lbs.
LIVES IN: Denver, CO



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Firefighter for 18 years
- Volunteers in a homeless shelter
- Likes bicycling and snowboarding with his girlfriend
- He is currently being treated with antibiotics for a blood infection
- Has been on the Transplant Waiting List for 6½ months

PETER

AGE: 22 years old
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 158 lbs.
LIVES IN: Boulder, CO



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Senior at the University of Colorado, Boulder
- After graduation, plans on becoming a counselor for at-risk teens
- Only child
- His heart disease is advancing rapidly
- Has been placed on the Transplant Waiting List for immediate heart transplant

ISABELLA

AGE: 6 months old
HEIGHT: 20"
WEIGHT: 5 lbs. 3 oz.
LIVES IN: Colorado Springs, CO



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Has 2 healthy siblings, ages 5 and 3
- Father, Ed, is stationed at Fort Carson Army Base
- Mother, Candy, works part-time in a dentist office
- She was born with a heart defect which requires transplant
- Has been on the Transplant Waiting List since birth

SUSAN

AGE: 13 years old
HEIGHT: 5'2"
WEIGHT: 101 lbs.
LIVES IN: Arvada, CO



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Has one healthy sibling, age 9
- Parents have been happily married for 27 years
- Currently a 7th grader at Arvada Central Junior High School
- A bacterial infection caused her to be placed on the Transplant Waiting List for immediate heart transplant