

Supplementary Table 1: Interview question guide

1. Time point 1 – Pre-donation: Donors

- a. Explanation of study, obtain informed consent
- b. How did you meet and could you tell me about your relationship with X?
- c. What are three words that you would use to describe them?
- d. On a scale of 0 (not close at all) to 10 (very close), how would you rate your relationship – why?
- e. What would you say are their strengths (or what you value/respect most about them) and their weaknesses?
- f. How did first come to know that X had kidney disease? How did you come to know that they would need a transplant?
- g. How did you decide to be a donor?
- h. Did someone ask you to donate or did you offer to donate a kidney? Were there other potential donors?
- i. What was the most important motivation to donate a kidney - why?
- j. What reservations or concerns did you have and how did you overcome them?
- k. To what extent do you think your relationship with X influenced your decision – how/why?
- l. How did your relationship with other family members, friends, colleagues have an influence on your decision – how/why?
- m. How do you expect that your relationship with the recipient will change after donation? Can you give an example...?
- n. Is there anything else that you think is important to add?

2. Time point 1 – Pre-donation: Recipients

- a. Explanation of study, obtain informed consent
- b. How did you meet and could you tell me about your relationship with X?
- c. What are three words that you would use to describe them?
- d. On a scale of 0 (not close at all) to 10 (very close), how would you rate your relationship – why?
- e. What would you say are their strengths (or what you value/respect most about them) and their weaknesses?
- f. When did you find out that you had CKD? When did you find out that you needed a transplant? What was your reaction?
- g. Tell me when you were thinking about asking your donor? Were there several potential donors?
- h. What was the most important motivation to accept this kidney from a living donor and not wait for a deceased donor kidney?
- i. How do you expect that your relationship with the donor will change after donation? Can you give an example...?
- j. Is there anything else that you think is important to add?

3. Time point 2 – Post-donation: Donors and recipients

- a. How have you recovered post-surgery?
- b. What kind of thoughts have you had about the transplant?
- c. How much contact have you had with your donor/recipient over the past two weeks? Please expand.
- d. Do you think the transplant is impacting on your relationship in any way – how?
- e. Has the transplant changed the way you view your donor/recipient – how? Can you give an example?
- f. Do you think the transplant has changed the way your donor/recipient views you – how? – Can you give an example?
- g. If yes, how have you been coping with these changes? How do these changes compare with your expectations?
- h. What kinds of things have you discussed with each other about the transplant?
- i. Have you told your donor/recipient about how you have been feeling since the transplant? How did this conversation go?
- j. Did you argue or have any disagreements with your donor/recipient in the past two weeks - why? How was it resolved?
- k. What aspects of a relationship do you believe are most important to cope with the donation/transplant?
- l. Is there anything else that you think is important to add?