




Medications for a Kidney Transplant



These are the standard anti-rejection medications commenced at the time of transplant. If a patient is unable to tolerate these medications they may be changed for a different brand\medication. Those medications will be discussed with you by your doctor\transplant coordinator if required.

Anti-rejection medications					
Medication name	Brand name	Action	Side effects (most common for other side effects see product information)	other	Appearance of medication
Basiliximab (only given in hospital)	Simulect	Monoclonal antibody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low or high blood pressure • Fast heart beat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given IV in hospital only • (day of transplant and day 4) 	Administered by nursing staff through the IV
Tacrolimus Handling precautions for carers.	Should always use the same brand Prograf (capsules) Tacrolimus (liquid)	Calcineurin (a signal in the immune response) inhibitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tremor • Headache • High blood pressure • Diabetes • PTLD • Cancer • Skin cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning and night • Give consistently with or without food. • Drug levels can be affected by grapefruit juice – do not eat or drink grapefruit <p>After transplant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose may be changed regularly due to blood levels. • Capsules/liquid not to be given until after morning blood test. Dose to be brought to hospital and given directly after. 	 <p>Cloudy white liquid</p>

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<p>Mycophenolate Mofetil</p> <p>Handling precautions for carers.</p>	<p>Should always use the same brand</p> <p>Mycophenolate (tablets/capsules) Ceptolate Pharmacor</p> <p>Cellcept (liquid)</p>	<p>Anti-proliferative agent (inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase inhibitor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarrhoea • Nausea • Headache • Low white blood cell count • PTLD • Cancer • Skin Cancer • Foetal harm (during pregnancy). Contraception required for sexually active transplant recipients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning and night • Drug levels can be affected by grapefruit juice 	 <p>White liquid</p>
<p>Prednisolone</p>	<p>Can use different brands</p> <p>Panafcortelone (tablets)</p> <p>Predmix (liquid)</p>	<p>Corticosteroid anti-inflammatory effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea • Vomiting • Increased appetite • Rapid weight gain • Mood changes • Bloating • Acne • Slow growth in children • Diabetes • Infections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily in the morning • Do not stop taking without instruction from your doctor. Must be weaned slowly • Doctor should be notified if unwell or having surgery as dose may need to be increased for a short time. 	 <p>Clear liquid</p>

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Prophylactic (preventative) medications					
Medication (generic) name	Brand name	Action	Side effects(most common for other side effects see product information)	Other	Appearance of medication
Omeprazole	Can use different brands	Anti-reflux Decreases acid production in the stomach (Proton-pump inhibitor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stomach upset Dry mouth dizziness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take once per day away from MMF and tacrolimus 	Depends on brand.
Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim (most commonly called Bactrim)	Can use different brands	Anti-biotic To prevent pneumocystis (lung infection).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low white cells in the blood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily at night 	 Or similar (ie white oval shape)
Nystatin	Can use different brands	Anti-fungal liquid Prevents thrush		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four times per day Swill around mouth, swallow and do not rinse out. 	Yellow liquid
Valganciclovir Handling precautions for carers.	Valcyte	Only given if the recipient and/or donor is CMV serology positive prior to transplant. Anti-viral Used for CMV prevention or treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nausea, vomiting Infections Thrush Insomnia Low white cells in the blood. Potential Foetal harm (during pregnancy). Contraception required for sexually active transplant recipients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily In the morning or as instructed by your doctor. Dose may change according to kidney function 	 White liquid

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