## Assess and treat infections post-transplant



#### **Overview**

This standard is about assessing and treating infections post-transplant in order to protect the function of the transplanted kidney.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies

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# Performance criteria

#### You must be able to:

- P1 listen carefully to the patient's history of symptoms and their concerns
- P2 ensure that the patient has an appropriate examination (e.g. palpation for swollen glands)
- P3 arrange investigations that are targeted towards the likely infective agents (e.g. serology for CMV)
- P4 trace contacts in the case of transmissible infections
- P5 ensure that treatment is started as soon as diagnosis is confirmed or sooner if the patient's condition warrants it
- P6 confirm that the proposed treatment is compatible with their anti-rejection medication
- P7 arrange for the dispensing of the appropriate medication with clear written instructions on how to take it and what it is for
- P8 explain fully the diagnosis to the patient, and what they should expect from the treatment (e.g. how long it should take to start to get better, possible side effects) and what to do if they have any concerns
- P9 help the patient understand the difference between symptoms of infection and rejection
- P10 test to confirm that the infection has resolved (e.g. repeat MSUs, blood cultures)

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# Knowledge and understanding

You need to	know and
understand:	

- K1 anatomy and physiology of the human body
- K2 anatomy and physiology of the renal system
- K3 the immune system
- K4 current accepted best practice for medication of transplanted patients (e.g. NICE guidelines)
- K5 types and methods of taking different medications
- K6 the effects, side effects and potential interactions of different medications
- K7 the effects, side effects and potential interactions of immunosuppressive therapy on other health conditions, and the effect of other health conditions on immunosuppressive therapy
- K8 the rejection process
- K9 immunosuppression therapy
- K10 microbiology and parasitology
- K11 venesection
- K12 swab-taking
- K13 labelling of samples
- K14 how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people (e.g. culture, language or special needs)
- K15 the importance of establishing rapport and how to do so
- K16 how to ask questions, listen carefully and summarise back
- K17 the importance of encouraging individuals to ask questions and how to do so
- K18 the religious beliefs of different cultures
- K19 the effects of different cultures and religions on care management
- K20 the principle of confidentiality and what information may be given to whom
- K21 the importance of involving individuals in discussions, and how to do so
- K22 the principles of evidence-based practice, and how to apply them

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#### **Additional Information**

**External links** 

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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