

## SFHRenTP2

### Plan immunosuppressive drugs, other medications and treatments



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#### Overview

This standard is about planning the immunosuppressive drug therapy for a potential recipient, taking into consideration the medication that is best suited to them and their particular condition.

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 explain the importance of the patient adhering to their regime and the potential consequences if they do not adhere to it
- P2 encourage adherence to their regime by looking at health belief models which explains a patient's health behaviour (e.g. low self esteem and lack of autonomy)
- P3 explain the monitoring methods that will be used (e.g. regular blood level checks, white cell count, kidney function)
- P4 follow the protocol for immunosuppression (e.g. NICE, local guidelines) and other medication (e.g. measuring against blood pressure reading, giving the patient a steroid therapy card, giving immunosuppressive therapy a couple of days before surgery, tailoring steroid therapy to avoid Addisonian crises)
- P5 explain to the patient the medications to be prescribed (including the brand), their effects and benefits, methods and frequency of taking them (e.g. to prevent rejection in the transplanted kidney, anti-ulcer drugs to prevent stomach ulceration, antivirals in selected patients)
- P6 check that no prescribed or 'over the counter' drugs that the patient is taking or is likely to take can interact and hinder immunosuppressive therapy (e.g. some antibiotics, St. John's Wort)
- P7 explain the possible side effects that may be experienced and what the patient should do in this event (e.g. diarrhoea with tacrolimus, excessive hair growth in women with cyclosporin)
- P8 discuss any issues the patient may have
- P9 provide written back-up information
- P10 promote effective communication between the transplant unit and referring centre (e.g. through shared computer systems)

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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 the criteria for prescribing suitable renal transplant medication according to national guidelines (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 psychological pressures that transplanted patients come up against
- K9 the rejection process
- K10 organisational guidelines on keeping records
- K11 the range of services provided by the local GP, renal health services and other professionals and how to access these services
- K12 your level of authority in optimising care
- K13 how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people (e.g. culture, language or special needs)
- K14 the importance of establishing rapport and how to do so
- K15 how to ask questions, listen carefully and summarise back
- K16 the importance of encouraging individuals to ask questions and how to do so
- K17 the religious beliefs of different cultures
- K18 the effects of different cultures and religions on care management
- K19 the principle of confidentiality and what information may be given to whom
- K20 the importance of involving individuals in discussions, and how to do so
- K21 how to negotiate effectively with individuals, families and other professionals
- 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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<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Version number</b>	1
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<b>Date approved</b>	June 2010
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<b>Indicative review date</b>	June 2012
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<b>Validity</b>	Current
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<b>Status</b>	Original
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<b>Originating organisation</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Original URN</b>	RenTP2
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Health, Public Services and Care; Health Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
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<b>Suite</b>	Renal
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<b>Key words</b>	kidney, kidneys, diabetes, renal
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