

Medication Tips

- ✓ To prevent rejection of your new liver, anti-rejection drugs are necessary. You will need to take these drugs for the rest of your life.

- ✓ It is very important to learn the names of these drugs, what they do, and possible side effects. You should know each drug's brand name (the company name) and the generic name. View the medication videos prior to being discharged and speak to the pharmacist about any concerns with your medications.

- ✓ These drugs must be carefully monitored (through blood work) especially in the first months after transplantation to ensure you are getting the correct dosage.

- ✓ If your antirejection drugs include Tacrolimus, Sirolimus or Cyclosporine, you **MUST NOT** take the medication before having your blood tests to measure your drug levels. Bring your medication to the hospital and take it immediately after your blood is drawn.

- ✓ Check with your pharmacist before taking any non-prescription medications, such as cold capsules, aspirin, cough syrups, vitamins, and herbal remedies. Other medications can affect how well your anti-rejection drugs work.

- ✓ Cannabis products may affect your transplant medications. Let the Transplant Team know if you use any marijuana products.

- ✓ It is strongly recommended that you don't eat or drink products with grapefruit and pomegranate due to drug interactions.

- ✓ If you miss a dose of your anti-rejection medication, the general rule is to take the missed dose when you remember. Check your medication sheet for specific instruction.

- ✓ If you vomit within 30 minutes of taking your medication, repeat the dose when your stomach settles. If you vomit more than three times within a few hours, notify your doctor.

- ✓ Make sure you always have two to three weeks' worth of medication on hand. Do not allow your prescriptions to run out.

- ✓ Before clinic visits, check to see if you need a refill on any prescriptions. The label on your medication package indicates if there are refills still available.

- ✓ The transplant team can **ONLY** give you a prescription for anti-rejection medications if they are following you and see the results of your blood tests. If you do not have bloodwork done regularly and do not see a physician, the transplant doctors can **NOT** write a prescription for you.

- ✓ When on vacation, take enough medication with you to last well beyond the time you plan to return home. If you travel by air, carry your medication in hand luggage rather than in checked luggage. Carry a list of your medications with you.

- ✓ Store medications at room temperature, away from direct heat or cold and always away from children's reach.
