

WHAT ARE SOME MEDICATIONS THAT NEED PK TESTING?

- Tacrolimus (Prograf) – twice daily
- Tacrolimus-extended release (Advagraf) – once daily
- Mycophenolate mofetil or MMF (CellCept)
- Mycophenolate sodium (Myfortic)

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AFTER THE TEST?

There is no special care after the test.

Your doctor will receive the results of the test within 7 to 10 days.

Based on the results of the test, your medication dose may change. You will be notified of any changes.

WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You can talk to your transplant doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Transplant Clinic

604-875-2345 ext. 3613

THIS CONTENT IS REVIEWED PERIODICALLY AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEW HEALTH INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

THE INFORMATION IS INTENDED TO INFORM AND EDUCATE AND IS NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR MEDICAL EVALUATION, ADVICE, DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT BY A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL.

Having PK Testing

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES and CAREGIVERS

Your child is booked to have a PK Test on

_____ @ 7:30 AM
(date)

for

_____ *(medication)*

in the Medical Day Unit.



An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

WHAT IS A PK TEST?

Your child has been scheduled for **pharmacokinetic** (farm-a-ko-kin-et-ik) drug monitoring (PK testing).

PK testing helps us to know how a person's body manages the medication. It tells how much is getting into the blood, and if that is enough for the medication to work well. The doctors and pharmacists use this to tell what the best dose is for you.

WHERE IS THE PK TEST DONE?

PK testing is done in the Medical Day Unit (MDU) at BC Children's Hospital.

HOW DO I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR A PK TEST?

It is important that you tell your child what to expect. Use simple language that he or she can understand.

On the day **before** the test, medications should be given at the usual time.

Write down the time that your child took their medication. Bring that information with you to the PK testing appointment.

WHAT ABOUT GIVING MEDICATIONS ON THE DAY OF THE TEST?

DO NOT GIVE your child their morning medications at home.

Instead, BRING all of your child's medications with you (including the pill bottles) on the day of the PK test. Show them to the MDU staff.

MDU staff will tell you when to give the medication and check the dose you are giving.

WAIT to give the morning dose of your child's medication UNTIL you are told to do so by the MDU staff.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PK TEST?

Your child will need to have their morning blood test drawn at 8 am (as usual). It includes a test to measure the level of the transplant medications.

After the first blood draw, you will be told to give your child his or her medication.

Then, your child will have a blood test every hour for four (4). That's a total of five (5) blood draws to finish the PK test.

For the blood tests, you and your child will have a choice and we will ask you what you would prefer:

1. Have to have an intravenous (IV) lock inserted when you arrive. All of the blood tests can be done using the IV after it is in place.
2. Have a separate blood draw for each of the samples (no IV). That would mean usually five (5) different pokes to finish the full PK test.

When we book the PK test, we will ask you to tell us what is your preference (IV or separate pokes), so that the MDU can prepare.

The timing of these blood tests is very important. You and your child must be in the MDU when each blood test is due. The MDU nurses will tell you when the blood tests will be done.

PK testing takes about 5 hours to complete. As soon as the last sample is done, you should be able to go home.

WILL I HAVE A CLINIC VISIT?

We try to book the PK test on Wednesday and do a clinic visit at the same time, while you are in the MDU. Make sure you check when the test is booked if there is a clinic visit also.