### **To Control Side Effects**

Some side effects of your transplant medications may be temporary while others may not go away with time. It is important not to stop your medication due to side effects without speaking to your transplant team first. Your transplant maybe able to offer solutions, such as reducing the dose or prescribing another medication, that may make your transplant medication more tolerable

#### Over-the-Counter Medications

You should always contact your transplant team before taking over-the-counter (OTC) medications. However, below are general guidelines for medications that are considered safe for transplant patients.

- For sneezing running nose: loratidine (Claritin) or cetirizine (Zyrtec)
- For nasal congestion: oxymetazoline (Afrin)
- For cough: dextromethorphan (Delsym) or guaifenesin (Robitussin)
- For headache or fever: acetaminophen (Tylenol)

If your symptoms do not improve in 2-3 days or worsen, contact your transplant team.

## **Pharmacy Services**

**Kings Pharmacy** Commitment to Care program is here to help you get healthy and stay healthy. As part of our commitment to you, we offer the following services listed below.

- 1. We will remind you when your refill is due to make sure you are never out of medication.
- 2. We will call your doctors for refills to ensure you always have a prescription available
- 3. We will work with you to discover how you can better manage your medication related concerns.
- 4. We provide free pick-up and delivery service anywhere in New York City as well as ship FedEx next-day in the continental U.S.



357 Flatbush Avenue (between 7th and 8th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11238

> Phone: 718-230 -3535 Fax: 718-230 -0596 www.kingsrx.com

Business Hours: Monday to Friday: 8:30am-9:00pm Saturday: 9:00am -8:00pm Sunday: 9: 00 am -6:00pm



1-001 Revised date- 7/31/13





Transplant Specialists



# Commitment to Care for the Transplant Patient



### **Commitment to You**

Kings Pharmacy welcomes you to our Commitment to Care Program. Our specially trained pharmacists will work with your transplant team to optimize your healthcare needs. Below is some helpful information to assist you in managing your transplant medications.

## Your Medications

After your transplant, you will be taking medications that will help you with your new organ. There are three different reasons you may be taking a medication:

- 1. To prevent rejection of your transplanted organ
- 2. To prevent infection
- 3. To control the side effects

It is important to know the purpose, dosing schedule, and possible side effects of each of your medications. Take your medications everyday, at the same time and at the prescribed dose. Missing doses may increase your risk of complications. Be sure to call for refills when you have less than 3 days supply of medication remaining.

## **To Prevent Rejection**

Transplant rejections occur when your body recognizes your new organ as foreign. Rejection most often occurs during the first three months after your transplant.

Anti-rejection medications (also known as immunosuppressants) prevent your body from rejecting your new organ. The following are common immunosuppressants used for transplant and their side effects:



Brand Name Generic Name Possible Side Effects	Neoral, Gengraf, Sandimmune Cyclosporine High blood pressure, increased hair growth, swollen gums, hand tremors, increased potassium, increased cholesterol	
Brand Name	Prograf	
Generic Name	Tacrolimus	
Possible	Hand tremors, thinning of hair, diarrhea,	
Side Effects	increased blood sugar, increased potassium	
Brand Name	CellCept, Myfortic	
Generic Name	Mycophenolate	
Possible	Diarrhea, decreased white blood cells,	
Side Effects	nausea/vomiting, anemia	
Brand Name	Rapamune	
Generic Name	Sirolimus	
Possible	Increased cholesterol/triglycerides,	
Side Effects	anemia, low platelets, diarrhea	
Generic Name Possible Side Effects	Prednisone Increased appetite, fluid retention, stom- ach ulcers, joint pain, bone loss, increased blood sugar, thrush, mood swings, visual changes, skin changes, changes in appearance	

## **To Prevent Infection**

Immunosuppressants can make you more susceptible to infections. Try to avoid people who have colds or the flu and remember to wash your hands frequently.

Signs and symptoms of infections include:

- fever greater than 101°F
- persistent nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- productive, persistent cough,
- pain/burning upon urination.

You should contact your transplant team if you experience any of the above signs and symptoms.

The following are common medications you may be prescribed to prevent infections:

Uses	Brand	Generic
To prevent chest infections and urinary tract infections	Bactrim, Septra	Sulfamethoxazole/ Trimethoprim
To prevent viral infections	Valcyte	Valganciclovir
	Zovirax	Acyclovir
To prevent fungal infections	Mycelex	Clotrimazole
	Mycostatin	Nystatin