# TACROLIMUS Drug Specific Monitoring Document

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| **TARGET AUDIENCE** | Board-wide |
| **PATIENT GROUP** | All patients aged 12 years and older taking Oral Tacrolimus **for solid organ transplant** |

## References


- British National Formulary (2024). *BNF | NICE*. [online] NICE. Available at: https://bnf.nice.org.uk/.
- Specialist Pharmacy Service (2021). *Medicines Monitoring*. [online] SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service. Available at: https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/tools/drug-monitoring/.
- Electronic Medicines Compendium (2019). *Home - electronic medicines compendium (emc)*. [online] Medicines.org.uk. Available at: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc
- NHS Lothian Shared Care Agreements. Tacrolimus for solid organ transplant in adult patients. Available at https://formulary.nhs.scot/east/help-and-support/for-healthcare-professionals/shared-care-of-medicines/nhs-lothian-shared-care-agreements/ Version 4.0; Review date: December 2026


## Governance information for drug specific document

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| **Lead Author(s):** | Medicines Policy and Guidance Team |
| **Endorsing Body:** | Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee |
| **Version Number:** | V1.1 |
| **Approval date** | 18.06.2025 |
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| **Responsible Person (if different from lead author)** | Kirsty Macfarlane/Mark Russell |

# ORAL TACROLIMUS Drug Specific Monitoring Document

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| **Medication Name** | ORAL TACROLIMUS |
| **Actions by specialist clinician before initiation** | • Blood pressure<br>• Clotting screening<br>• ECG<br>• Fasting blood glucose<br>• FBC<br>• LFTs<br>• Plasma proteins<br>• eGFR<br>• U&Es<br><br>*For all drugs, specialist clinicians should consider whether vaccination/exclusion of other contraindications (including active infection), is required and arrange as appropriate.* |
| **DIS actions on starting treatment and following dose titration during initiation period** | The following are completed by specialist team:<br>• After initial dosing, and for maintenance treatment, tacrolimus doses should be adjusted according to response and whole blood-tacrolimus trough concentrations (especially during episodes of diarrhoea)<br>• Trough level blood tests monthly for the first 6 months, thereafter according to clinic follow-up frequency<br>• U&Es<br>• eGFR |
| **Ongoing monitoring in Primary Care once stable** | Although blood level monitoring is routinely carried out by the specialist team during clinic visits, in exceptional circumstances the team may request that the GP arranges for blood tests to be taken locally for patient convenience. If the GP agrees to this, the specialist will give advice on the management of abnormal results. |
| **Action if monitoring is outside reference range** | **The specialist will give advice on the management of all abnormal results.**<br><br>**All monitoring and dose adjustments will be performed by the acute specialist teams. No dose adjustment decisions are expected to be made by primary care teams.** |
| **Actions to take if restarting medication after treatment break** | All changes to medication will be managed by the specialist team |

## ORAL TACROLIMUS Drug Specific Monitoring Document

| CONSULTATION AND DISTRIBUTION RECORD | |
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| **Contributing Author / Authors** | Kirsty Macfarlane, Mark Russell, Kendal Paterson, Katrina Maroni |
| **Consultation Process / Stakeholders:** | LMC, GP Sub-committee, Alison Yule, Eimear Gordon, Richard Shearer, Drug Initiation Service pharmacists, Acute specialist consultants and pharmacists. Dominique Sweeney (NHS GGC) |
| **Distribution** | Acute specialist consultants and pharmacists, Senior primary care pharmacists, all individuals involved with the Drug Initiation Service, LMC and GP sub-committee |

| CHANGE RECORD | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Date** | **Lead Author** | **Change** | **Version** |
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