

I can tell you about the medicines my child needs to take.

After the transplant, you child will need to take medicine for the rest of his or her life.

This is because the body protects us from germs by fighting them off with the **immune system**. Your child's body will see the transplanted liver as an invader, and try to destroy it. The body does not see the new liver as helpful. So your child needs to take medicine that stops this attack. These medicines are called **immunosuppressive drugs**.

When the body is kept from attacking the liver, it is also being kept from attacking germs. So people who have transplants are at higher risk for getting infections. To prevent infections, we give antibiotics. Medicines that prevent a problem are called **prophylactic** meds.

So, at first, you child will be taking a lot of medicine. After six months, some of these medicines may not be necessary.

Your child will start to get these medicines right after surgery. The nurses will tell you the names and reasons for each, how much is given and what side effects to look for.

You will also learn about the medicines from the transplant coordinator and pharmacist. You will learn how to get them, how to give them, and how to take care of your child at home. Make sure you are comfortable understanding what you need to do. If you have any questions or concerns, ask.

We will give you a list of your child's medicines and doses. Each time your child sees the doctor, the list may change. Always carry the most recent medicine list with you.

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.