

Tobramycin Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Interpretive notes – antibiotic assays Version 2, February 2009.

These notes are not a comprehensive review of the subject and should only be used as a guide to decision making. If discussion is desired, please contact the duty microbiologist

General response to an assay result

- **Does this patient still need to be on antibiotic(s)?**
- **If yes: are they currently on the most appropriate one(s)?**
- **Can they be switched to a suitable alternative: eg a narrower spectrum / less toxic &/or an oral agent?**
- **If this agent is still indicated: how does this specific result influence patient management?**
- **Was the assay taken at an appropriate time in relation to the dose?**
- **Is the level in the desired therapeutic range – or too low or too high?**
- **What dosing adjustment, if any, is required?**
- **Is there any evidence of toxicity?**

The answer to these questions may be assisted by the information given below.

Tobramycin

Tobramycin is usually only prescribed as part of previously agreed protocols on specialist units e.g. cystic fibrosis, paediatric oncology. Please refer to these protocols for assay interpretation.

Occasionally, tobramycin (as oppose to gentamicin) will be specifically recommended (usually by Microbiology); if so and the regime / therapeutic ranges not specified: the appropriate regimen / interpretative assay result interpretation as for gentamicin should be followed.