

— Drug Therapy

Therapeutic drug monitoring is the measurement of specific drugs at timed intervals in order to maintain a relatively constant concentration of the medication in the bloodstream. Monitored drugs tend to have a narrow "therapeutic index," a ratio between the toxic and therapeutic doses of medications. For some drugs, maintaining this steady state is not as simple as giving a standard dose of medication. Each person will absorb, metabolize, utilize, and eliminate drugs at different rates based upon their age, general state of health, genetic makeup, and the interference of other medications that they are taking. These rates may change over time and vary from day to day. Changes in the rate may also occur in various disease states or through interaction with other medications.

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