

Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines for Primary Care in Ireland

Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Amoxicillin			
Age	Normal dose	Maximum dose	Maximum dose check (average weight for age). Based on 90mg/kg/day
1-11 months	125mg per dose every 8 hours	30mg/kg per dose every 8 hours	1 month (4.3kg): 129mg every 8 hours 11 months (8kg): 240mg every 8 hours
1-4 years	250mg per dose every 8 hours	30mg/kg per dose every 8 hours	1 year (9kg): 270mg every 8 hours 4 years (16kg): 480mg every 8 hours
5-11 years	500mg per dose every 8 hours	30mg/kg* per dose every 8 hours *Max. 1g/dose	5 years (18kg): 540mg every 8 hours 11 years (35kg): 1g every 8 hours
12-17 years	500mg per dose every 8 hours	1g every 8 hours	1g every 8 hours

Preparations available: Amoxicillin powder for suspension 125mg/5mL, 250mg/5mL. Capsules 250mg, 500mg. See Chapter 9.1.1 Penicillins (Amoxicillin).

Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V)			
Age	Normal dose	Maximum dose	Maximum dose check. Based on 12.5mg/kg every 6 hours
1-11 months	62.5mg per dose every 6 hours	12.5 mg/kg per dose every 6 hours	1 month (4.3kg): 53.75mg every 6 hours 11 months (8kg): 100mg every 6 hours
1-5 years	125mg per dose every 6 hours	12.5 mg/kg per dose every 6 hours	1 year (9kg): 112.5mg every 6 hours 5 years (18kg): 225mg every 6 hours
6-11 years	250mg per dose every 6 hours (Kopen tablet or liquid) OR 333mg per dose every 6 hours (Calvepen tablet)	12.5 mg/kg per dose every 6 hours	6 years (20kg): 250mg every 6 hours 12 years (39kg): 487.5mg every 6 hours
12 years and older, Adults	500mg per dose every 6 hours (Kopen tablet or liquid) OR 666mg per dose every 6 hours (Calvepen tablet)	12.5 mg/kg per dose every 6 hours	As per normal dose

Preparations available: Phenoxymethylpenicillin powder for oral solution 125mg/5mL, 250mg/5mL. Tablets, Kopen 250mg, Calvepen 333mg, 666mg. See Chapter 9.1.1 Penicillins (Phenoxymethylpenicillin).

Note: Calvepen 333mg tablet = 300mg phenoxymethylpenicillin, Calvepen 666mg tablet = 600mg phenoxymethylpenicillin*

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Co-Amoxiclav (amoxicillin/clavulanic acid)

Three times daily (TDS) 125/31.25mg per 5mL Oral Suspension Dosing Table

Combined amoxicillin/clavulanic acid 156mg per 5mL contains 125mg amoxicillin and 31.25mg clavulanic acid per 5mL.

Warning: In the small number of instances where amoxicillin/clavulanic acid is indicated, a twice daily preparation of amoxicillin/clavulanic acid 400/57mg in 5mL is not recommended for first line therapy.

Children aged less than 2 years

Weight	Mild-moderate infection 8.3 mg/kg* TDS		Severe infection 16.7 mg/kg* TDS	
	Dose in mg	Dose in mL	Dose in mg	Dose in mL
2kg	17mg* TDS	0.5mL TDS	33mg* TDS	1.1mL TDS
3kg	25mg* TDS	0.8mL TDS	50mg* TDS	1.6mL TDS
4kg	33mg* TDS	1.1mL TDS	67mg* TDS	2.1mL TDS
5kg	42mg* TDS	1.3mL TDS	84mg* TDS	2.7mL TDS
6kg	50mg* TDS	1.6mL TDS	100mg* TDS	3.2mL TDS
7kg	58mg* TDS	1.9mL TDS	117mg* TDS	3.7mL TDS
8kg	66mg* TDS	2.1mL TDS	134mg* TDS	4.3mL TDS
9kg	75mg* TDS	2.4mL TDS	150mg* TDS	4.8mL TDS
10kg	83mg* TDS	2.7mL TDS	167mg* TDS	5.4mL TDS
11kg	91mg* TDS	2.9mL TDS	184mg* TDS	5.9mL TDS
12kg	100mg* TDS	3.2mL TDS	200mg* TDS	6.4mL TDS
13kg	108mg* TDS	3.5mL TDS	217mg* TDS	7mL TDS
14kg	116mg* TDS	3.7mL TDS	234mg* TDS	7.5mL TDS
15kg	125mg* TDS	4mL TDS	251mg* TDS	8mL TDS

Children aged 2 -12 years and weighing less than 40kg

Age	Mild-moderate infection		Severe infection	
	Dose in mg	Dose in mL	Dose in mg	Dose in mL
1-5 years (>15kg)	156mg* TDS	5mL TDS	312mg* TDS	10mL TDS
6-12 years**	312mg* TDS	10mL TDS	625mg* TDS	20mL TDS

*Dose expressed as amoxicillin/clavulanic acid combined i.e. 156mg = 125mg amoxicillin + 31.25mg clavulanic acid in 5mL.

**In children aged 6-12 years consider a twice daily (BD) dosing formulation (of ratio 7:1 such as Augmentin Duo) of amoxicillin-clavulanic acid to reduce volume of suspension necessary for correct dose. Consult with pharmacist to calculate dose.

Children older than 12 years, OR weighing 40kg or greater, and Adults

625mg TDS (tablet formulation: 625mg = amoxicillin/clavulanic acid 500/125mg) or 625mg TDS (20mL TDS of amoxicillin/clavulanic acid 125/31.25mg in 5mL).

Preparations available: See Chapter 9.1.1 Penicillins (Amoxicillin/Clavulanate).

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Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Flucloxacillin

Age	Normal dose	Maximum dose check (average weight for age)
1 month to under 2 years	62.5-125mg per dose every 6 hours	125mg per dose every 6 hours
2-10 years	125-250mg per dose every 6 hours	250mg per dose every 6 hours
10-17 years	250-500mg per dose every 6 hours	500mg per dose every 6 hours

Preparations available: Flucloxacillin powder for oral suspension: 125mg/5mL and 250mg/5mL. Flucloxacillin capsules 500mg. See Chapter 9.1.1 Penicillins (Flucloxacillin).

Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Clarithromycin

Age	Normal dose	Maximum dose check (average weight for age)
1-11 months	7.5mg/kg per dose every 12 hours	1 month (4.3kg): 32.25mg every 12 hours 11 months (8kg): 60mg every 12 hours
1-2 years	62.5mg per dose every 12 hours	
3-6 years	125mg per dose every 12 hours	
7-9 years	187.5mg per dose every 12 hours	
10-12 years	250mg per dose every 12 hours	
Older than 12-17 years	250-500mg per dose every 12 hours	

Preparations available: Clarithromycin Granules for Oral Solution 125mg/5mL, 250mg/5mL. Tablets 250mg, 500mg. See Chapter 9.1.4 Macrolides (Clarithromycin).

Note: Prolonged release tablets not recommended in children under 12 years.

Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Cefalexin

Age	Normal dose	Maximum dose	Maximum dose check (average weight for age)*
1-11 months	125mg per dose every 12 hours	12.5mg/kg/per dose every 12 hours	1 month (4.3kg): 430mg/day 11 months (8kg): 800mg/day
1-4 years	125mg per dose every 8 hours	12.5mg/kg/per dose every 12 hours	1 year (9kg): 900mg/day 4 years (16kg): 1600mg/day
5-11 years	250mg per dose every 8 hours	12.5mg/kg/per dose every 12 hours	5 years (18kg): 1800mg/day 11 years (35kg): 3500mg/day Max. per dose 1 g every 6 hours
12-17 years	500mg per dose every 8-12 hours	1-1.5g every 6-8 hours	1-1.5g every 6-8 hours

***Note:** Can be dosed at up to 100mg/kg/day (max 1g QDS) under specialist advice.

Preparations available: Cefalexin 125mg/5mL, 250mg/5mL powder for oral suspension. Capsules 250mg, 500mg. See Chapter 9.1.2 Cephalosporins, Carbapenems, Monobactams (Cefalexin).

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Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Nitrofurantoin

Age	Normal dose	Maximum dose check (average weight for age)
3-5 months	0.75mg/kg per dose every 6 hours	3 months (5kg): 3.75mg every 6 hours 5 months (7kg): 5.25mg every 6 hours
6 months to 3 years	0.75mg/kg per dose every 6 hours	6 months (8kg): 6mg every 6 hours 3 years (14kg): 10.5mg every 6 hours
4-7 years	0.75mg/kg per dose every 6 hours	4 years (16kg): 12mg every 6 hours 7 years (23kg): 17.25mg every 6 hours
8-12 years	0.75mg/kg per dose every 6 hours	8 years (26kg): 19.5mg every 6 hours 12 years (39kg): 29.25mg every 6 hours
Age 12 years and older and adults	50mg to be given every 6 hours (using immediate release product) OR 100mg every 12 hours (using the modified-release product)	

Preparations available: Nitrofurantoin 50mg immediate release (Standard/R) tablets, 100mg modified release (Prolonged/R) capsules. See 9.1.8 Drugs Used In Urinary Tract Infections (Nitrofurantoin).

Unlicensed Nitrofurantoin 25mg/5mL oral suspension available for children. Consult with pharmacist regarding availability and price.

Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Trimethoprim

Age	Normal dose: 3mg/kg every 12 hours	Maximum dose	Maximum dose check. Based on max. of 4mg/kg every 12 hours
6 weeks-5 months	25mg every 12 hours	4mg/kg every 12 hours	6 weeks (5kg): 20mg every 12 hours 5 months (7kg): 28mg every 12 hours
6 months-3 years	25 - 50mg every 12 hours	4mg/kg every 12 hours	6 months (8kg): 32mg every 12 hours 3 years (14kg): 56mg every 12 hours
4-7 years	50 - 75mg every 12 hours	4mg/kg every 12 hours	4 years (16kg): 64mg every 12 hours 7 years (23kg): 92mg every 12 hours
8-12 years	75 - 125mg every 12 hours	4mg/kg every 12 hours	8 years (26kg): 104mg every 12 hours 12 years (39kg): 156mg every 12 hours
12 years and older and Adults	200mg every 12 hours		200mg every 12 hours

Preparations available: Trimethoprim 10mg/mL oral solution. Tablets 100mg, 200mg. See Chapter 9.1.8 Drugs Used In Urinary Tract Infections (Trimethoprim).

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Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Metronidazole*

Age	Normal dose	Maximum dose check (average weight for age)
1-2 months	7.5mg/kg per dose every 12 hours	1 month (4.3kg): 32.25mg every 12 hours 2 months (5.4kg): 40.5mg every 12 hours
From age 2 months-12 years	7.5mg/kg per dose every 8 hours	2 months (5.4kg): 40.5mg every 8 hours 12 years (39kg): Max. 400mg every 8 hours
12-17 years	400mg every 8 hours	Max. 400mg every 8 hours

*Note: Treatment of anaerobic (non-dental) infections.

Preparations available: Metronidazole liquid 200mg/5mL. Tablets 200mg, 400mg. See Chapter 9.1.7 Anaerobic Infections (Metronidazole).

Antibiotic Prescribing for Children: Doxycycline (excluding Lyme Disease)

Age	Normal dose	Maximum dose check (average weight for age*)
8 to under 12 years	Under 45kg: Day 1: 4.4mg/kg/day in 1-2 divided doses Day 2 onwards: 2.2mg/kg/day in 1-2 divided doses. 45kg and above: Day 1: 200mg daily in 1-2 divided doses Day 2 onwards: 100mg daily	8 years (26kg)*: Day 1: 114.4mg/day Day 2 onwards: 57.2mg/day 12 years (39kg)*: Day 1: 171.6mg/day Day 2 onwards: 85.8mg/day For 44kg weight: Day 1: 193.6mg/day Day 2 onwards: 96.8kg/day
12- 17 years	Day 1: 200mg daily in 1-2 divided doses. Day 2 onwards: 100mg daily.	As per normal dose

Preparations available: Doxycycline capsules/tablets 50mg, 100mg. See Chapter 9.1.6 Tetracyclines (Doxycycline). Dispersible tablets 100mg which is an unlicensed product, check availability with community pharmacist.

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