

A Guide to the Use of the Antibiotics Available in The WHO Emergency Health Kit

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Phenoxymethyl penicillin (Pen V)

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- Oral only TABS 250mg (4,000)
 - Child: 25-50 mg/kg/d/div q6-8h
 - Adult: 1-4gm/day div q6-8h
- Indications
 - Minor respiratory
 - Head and neck
 - good against oral anaerobes, grp A strep, grp b strep,, some pneumococcus

Procaine benzylpenicillin (Pen G)

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- IM only (q12h) Inj (1,000)
 - Child: 25,000-50,000 u/kg/d div q12-24h
 - Adult: 300,000-600,000 u/dose q12
- Indications
 - Mild-mod respiratory
 - Head and neck
 - good against anaerobes, grp A. strep, grp B strep, some pneumococcus

Benzathine benzylpencillin (Pen G) (Bicillin)

- IM respiratory only (q15-30 days)
 - Child: 50,000 u/kg single dose
 - Adult: 2 mega units single dose
- Indications
 - Mild-mod respiratory
 - Head and neck
 - good against oral anaerobes, grp A strep, grp B strep, some pneumococcus

Ampicillin

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- Oral TABS (2,000)
 - Child: 50-100 mg/kg/d/div q6h
 - Adult: 2-4 gm/day divq6h
- IM/TV Inj (200)
 - Child: 100-400 mg/kg/d div q4-6h
 - Adult: 6-12 gm q4-6h
- Indications
 - mod-severe respiratory
 - Sepsis/meningitis, esp neonate
 - therapeutic levels achieved in CSF, pleural, peritoneal with parenteral
 - Improved gram neg coverage over PCN

Septra (TMP/SMX)

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- Oral only TABS 80/400 (20,000)
 - Child: 8-12 (TMP) mg/kg/d div q12h
 - Adult: 1-2 tabs bid
- Indications
 - Mild-mod respiratory
 - skin
 - UTI, dysentery, cholera
- Hypersensitivity and bone marrow suppression

Chloramphenicol

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- Oral TABS 250mg (2,000)
- IM/IV Inj 1gm (500)
 - Dose oral or IV:
 - < 1 week 25 mg/kg/d
 - > 1 week 50mg/kg/day div q12h
 - > 4 weeks 50mg/kg/day div q6h
 - older children and adults
 - 100mg/kg/day div q6h
- Indications
 - Excellent broad spectrum coverage of severe infections in virtually all body fluids including CSF
 - Sepsis/meningitis, rep, bone/joint
 - Typhoid, cholera, anaerobes, dysentery
- Excellent bioavailability given orally

- Chloramphenicol Toxicity
 - Reversible dose dependent Bone Marrow Suppression
 - anemia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia
 - Idiosyncratic Aplastic Anemia (1:40,000 recipients)
 - occurs weeks to months after therapy
 - not dose related
 - Gray Baby Syndrome
 - Overdosing in infants
 - Flaccidity, cyanosis, circulatory collapse, metabolic acidosis
 - Can trigger hemolytic anemia in severe G6PD deficiency

Tetracycline

- - Oral only CAP/TABS 250mg (2,000)
 - Child: 25-50 mg/kg/d div q6h
 - Adult: 250-500 mg q6h
 - Indications
 - Mild-mod respiratory
 - Cholera, dysentery, malaria
 - Toxicity's
 - Not recommended for pregnant women or <8yo
 - Staining of teeth, enamel hypoplasia
 - Related to total dose
 - Don't hesitate to use for life threatening illness