

## **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