Cefalexin
Newborn use only

2020

Alert	High risk medicine. The Antimicrobial Stewardship Team recommends this drug is listed under the following category: Unrestricted.
Indication	Treatment of mild infections due to susceptible strains of bacteria. Prophylaxis of urinary tract infections in patients at risk, such as vesicoureteric reflux.
Action	First generation cephalosporin. Bactericidal − inhibits cell wall synthesis in susceptible organisms. Most active against Gram-positive cocci, including MSSA and streptococci. Has have no activity against enterococci, MRSA or *Listeria*.[1]
Drug type	Cephalosporin antibiotic.
Trade name	APO-Cephalexin, Cefalexin Sandoz, Ialex, Ibilex, Keflex.
Presentation	125 mg/5 mL suspension 250 mg/5mL suspension
Dose	**Treatment** **Postnatal Age (Days)** / **Dose** / **Interval** 0–7 days / 25 mg/kg / 12-hourly 8–28 days / 25 mg/kg / 8-hourly ≥29 days / 25 mg/kg / 6-hourly **Prophylaxis of urinary tract infection (UTI)** 12.5 (10–15) mg/kg/dose DAILY (maximum dose 125 mg daily).[7,8] **Prophylaxis around Micturating Cystourethrogram (MCU)** 12.5 (10–15) mg/kg/dose 8-hourly for 3 days (day prior, on the day and one day after MCU).[10]
Dose adjustment	
Maximum dose	500 mg
Total cumulative dose	
Route	Oral
Preparation	Supplied reconstituted by Pharmacy. If supplied unreconstituted, use water for injection with the volume specified on the packaging for reconstitution.
Administration	Shake bottle well before measuring dose. Prophylactic dose: May be taken with or without food. Treatment dose: Preferably commence treatment **without** feeds for faster absorption and higher peak concentrations[3]
Monitoring	Renal, hepatic and haematological function with prolonged use.
Contraindications	Hypersensitivity to cephalosporins. Immediate hypersensitivity or severe reaction to penicillins.
Precautions	Use with caution in patients with hypersensitivity or mild adverse reactions to penicillins or carbapenems as cross-reactivity can occur (e.g. rash).
Drug interactions	Not applicable.
Adverse reactions	Diarrhoea, abdominal pain, vomiting. Pseudomembranous colitis (rare). Transient elevation of liver enzymes. Hypersensitivity: Immediate − urticaria, bronchospasm, anaphylaxis. Delayed − maculopapular rash, fever, eosinophilia.
Compatibility	Not applicable.
Incompatibility	Not applicable.
Stability	Reconstituted solution should be discarded after 14 days.
Storage	Store powder below 25°C Store reconstituted solution between 2 and 8°C
Excipients	
Special comments	May cause false positive Coombs test. Consider increasing dosing interval in significant renal impairment.

Evidence	Refer to full version.
Practice points	Refer to full version.
References	Refer to full version.

VERSION/NUMBER	DATE
Original 1.1	**08/08/2015**
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Authors Contribution

Original author/s	Chris Wake, Srinivas Bolisetty
Evidence Review	David Osborn
Expert review	Brendan McMullan, Sean Kennedy, Anne Durkan
Nursing Review	Eszter Jozsa, Kirtsy Minter
Pharmacy Review	Jing Xiao, Michelle Jenkins, Cindy Chen
ANMF Group contributors	Nilkant Phad, Himanshu Popat, Rajesh Maheshwari
Final editing and review of the original	Ian Whyte
Electronic version	Cindy Chen, Ian Callander
Facilitator	Srinivas Bolisetty