

Table 1. Recommended antibiotic doses and durations for common paediatric infections

Indication	Antibiotics and dosage form available	Recommended dose	Recommended duration
Uncomplicated community-acquired pneumonia (7)	First line: Amoxicillin Capsules: 250 mg, 500 mg	20–30 mg/kg/dose by mouth, three times daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose Consider rounding dose to the nearest capsule size	5 days (8)
	Second line: Amoxicillin/Clavulanate Tablets: 500/125 mg, 875/125 mg <i>Dose based on amoxicillin component</i>	20–30 mg/kg/dose by mouth, three times daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose Consider rounding dose to the nearest quarter, half, or full tablet	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (non-life-threatening):</i> Cefprozil OR Cefuroxime Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	15 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose Consider rounding dose to the nearest half or full tablet	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (life-threatening) or suspected atypical pneumonia:</i> Option #1: Clarithromycin Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	7.5 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (life-threatening) or suspected atypical pneumonia:</i> Option #2: Azithromycin Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	10 mg/kg/day by mouth once, on day 1 (maximum: 500 mg), followed by 5 mg/kg/day by mouth daily, on days 2 to 5 (maximum: 250 mg)	
Acute otitis media (AOM) (9)	Amoxicillin Capsules: 250 mg, 500 mg	37.5–45 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose Consider rounding dose to the nearest capsule size	<2 years old: 10 days ≥2 years old: 5 days
	Second line: Amoxicillin/Clavulanate Tablets: 500/125 mg, 875/125 mg <i>Dose based on amoxicillin component</i>	37.5–45 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 875 mg/dose Consider rounding dose to the nearest quarter, half, or full tablet	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (non-life-threatening)</i> Cefprozil OR Cefuroxime Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	15 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 500 mg Consider rounding dose to nearest half or full tablet	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (life-threatening):</i> Option #1: Clarithromycin Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	7.5 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (life-threatening):</i> Option #2: Azithromycin Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	10 mg/kg/day by mouth once, on day 1 (maximum:500 mg), followed by 5 mg/kg/day by mouth daily, on days 2 to 5 (maximum: 250 mg)	5 days
	Penicillin VK Tablets: 300 mg	<27 kg: 300 mg by mouth, two or three times daily ≥27 kg: 600 mg by mouth, two or three times daily	10 days

Group A streptococcal (GAS) pharyngitis (10)	Amoxicillin Capsules: 250 mg, 500 mg	50 mg/kg/dose by mouth once daily (can also be divided for a twice daily dose) Maximum: 1000 mg/day Consider rounding dose to nearest capsule size	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (non-life-threatening):</i> Cephalexin Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	20 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose Consider rounding dose to nearest half or full tablet	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (life-threatening):</i> Option #1: Clarithromycin Tablets: 250 mg	7.5 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 250 mg/dose	
	<i>Penicillin-allergic (life-threatening)</i> Option #2: Azithromycin Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	12 mg/kg/dose by mouth daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose	5 days
Urinary tract infection (UTI) \geq 3 months (11) (empiric therapy awaiting urine culture result)	Cephalexin Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg	15–20 mg/kg/dose by mouth, three times daily Maximum: 500 mg/dose Consider rounding dose to nearest half or full tablet	7 days
	Co-trimoxazole (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole) Tablets: 80/400 mg, 160/800 mg <i>Dose based on trimethoprim component</i>	4–6mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 160 mg of trimethoprim/dose Consider rounding dose to nearest quarter, half, or full tablet	Uncomplicated non-febrile UTI: 3 days
	Cefixime Tablet: 400 mg	8 mg/kg/dose by mouth once daily Maximum: 400 mg/dose Consider rounding dose to nearest quarter, half, or full tablet	
	Amoxicillin/Clavulanate Tablets: 500/125 mg, 875/125 mg <i>Dose based on amoxicillin component</i>	<35 kg: 15-20mg/kg/dose by mouth, three times daily (Maximum: 500 mg/dose) Consider rounding dose to nearest quarter, half, or full tablet \geq35 kg: 500 mg/125 mg by mouth, three times daily OR 875 mg/125 mg by mouth, two times daily	Uncomplicated febrile UTI: 7-10 days
	Ciprofloxacin Tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg, 750 mg	15 mg/kg/dose by mouth, two times daily Maximum: 750 mg/dose	

Source: Canadian Paediatric Society, Drug Therapy and Hazardous Substances Committee (principal authors: D McCreath, G 't Jong, Y Finkelstein, C Moore Hepburn). Managing critical drug shortages in clinical practice. December 2022. Available at www.cps.ca

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