

## NHS Grampian Guidance Notes on the Treatment of Common Infections in Children in Primary Care

Most of the treatment recommendations in the [NHS Grampian Protocol for the Treatment of Common Infections in Adults in Primary Care](#) can be used to direct treatment choices for children except in the restrictions listed in **Table 2** below. Some antibiotics listed in the protocol for adults can be prescribed for children but may only be licensed for use in certain ages. Please check the [BNF for Children](#) or [SmPC](#) for individual antibiotics.

**Table 1: COMMON PAEDIATRIC DOSES - assuming average weight.**

See [BNF for Children](#).

Phenoxymethyl- penicillin <sup>#</sup> 4 x daily	Amoxicillin <sup>§</sup> 3 x daily	Clarithromycin 2 x daily	Flucloxacillin <sup>!</sup> 4 x daily	Trimethoprim 2 x daily	Nitrofurantoin 4 x daily
1-11mths 62.5mg	1-11mths 125mg	1mth-11yrs (≤8kg) 7.5mg/kg 8-11kg 62.5mg	1mth-1yr 62.5mg	6mths-5yrs 50mg	3mth-11yrs 750micrograms/kg
1-5yrs 125mg	1-4yrs 250mg	12-19kg 125mg	2-9yrs 125mg	6-11yrs 100mg	
6-11yrs 250mg	≥5yrs 500mg	20-29kg 187.5mg 30-40kg 250mg	≥10yrs 250mg	≥ 12yrs 200mg	12-17yrs 50mg

<sup>#</sup> **Phenoxymethylpenicillin** doses may be increased up to 12.5mg/kg 4 times daily in severe infections

<sup>§</sup> **Amoxicillin** doses may be increased to 30mg/kg (max 1g) 3 times a day in severe infections

<sup>!</sup> **Flucloxacillin** doses may be doubled in severe infections

### Penicillin Allergy

For children with a penicillin allergy **clarithromycin suspension** is usually the most appropriate choice of antibiotic to treat community-acquired pneumonia and acute sinusitis (doxycycline would be the agent of choice in adults for these indications). Specialist advice would be required for penicillin allergic children with a bite, where adults would be treated with doxycycline. Be aware clarithromycin *tablets* are not licensed in children under 12 years old but the *suspension* is licensed for children ≥6 months.

**Please note** the nature of the penicillin allergy must be clearly documented to avoid mislabelling children with drug intolerances rather than a true allergy.

**Table 2: Restrictions for Antibiotic use in Children** (relating to the treatment choices in [NHS Grampian Protocol for the Treatment of Common Infections in Adults in Primary Care](#))

<b>Doxycycline</b>	Doxycycline is unlicensed in children under 8 years and should be avoided in children aged 8 to 11 years due to teeth discolouration (see <a href="#">BNF for Children</a> for further details).
<b>Pyelonephritis</b>	Children should be referred to a hospital paediatrician for assessment and treatment.
<b>Herpes zoster</b>	Immunocompetent children do <b>not</b> normally need treatment.
<b>Candidiasis</b>	Systemic fluconazole is <b>not</b> recommended in children without specialist advice; Clotrimazole 1% cream can be used to treat superficial candidiasis in the genital area.