Clinical Guideline
Amoxicillin with Clavulanic Acid

Policy developed by: SA Maternal & Neonatal Clinical Community of Practice
Approved by
Safety & Quality Strategic Governance Committee on: 28 April 2017
Next review due: 30 April 2020

Summary
The purpose of the Amoxicillin with Clavulanic Acid Neonatal Medication Guideline is to guide nursing, medical and pharmacy staff in the dosing and administration of amoxicillin with clavulanic acid.

Keywords
Amoxicillin with clavulanic acid, neonatal medication guideline, co-amoxiclav, amoxycillin, amoxicillin, sepsis, infection, penicillin, clinical guideline, Amoxicillin with Clavulanic Acid Neonatal Medication Guideline

Policy history
Is this a new policy? N
Does this policy amend or update an existing policy? Y v1.0
Does this policy replace an existing policy? N
If so, which policies?

Applies to
All Health Networks
CALHN, SALHN, NALHN, CHSALHN, WCHN

Staff impact
All Clinical, Medical, Midwifery, Nursing, Students, Allied Health, Emergency, Mental Health, Pathology, Pharmacy

PDS reference CG009

Version control and change history

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Note
This guideline provides advice of a general nature. This statewide guideline has been prepared to promote and facilitate standardisation and consistency of practice, using a multidisciplinary approach. The guideline is based on a review of published evidence and expert opinion.

Information in this statewide guideline is current at the time of publication.

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Health practitioners in the South Australian public health sector are expected to review specific details of each patient and professionally assess the applicability of the relevant guideline to that clinical situation.

If for good clinical reasons, a decision is made to depart from the guideline, the responsible clinician must document in the patient’s medical record, the decision made, by whom, and detailed reasons for the departure from the guideline.

This statewide guideline does not address all the elements of clinical practice and assumes that the individual clinicians are responsible for discussing care with consumers in an environment that is culturally appropriate and which enables respectful confidential discussion. This includes:

- The use of interpreter services where necessary,
- Advising consumers of their choice and ensuring informed consent is obtained,
- Providing care within scope of practice, meeting all legislative requirements and maintaining standards of professional conduct, and
- Documenting all care in accordance with mandatory and local requirements

Synonyms
Co-amoxiclav, amoxicillin with clavulanic acid

Dose and Indications

Infection due to susceptible organisms

Oral
Dose according to amoxicillin content

Duo® product, 12.5–22.5 mg/kg every 12 hours

Length of treatment should be guided by pathology and clinical picture; however in proven sepsis treatment should continue for a minimum of 7 days.

Preparation and Administration

Oral

There are brands available refer to product information for reconstitution volume.

The reconstituted solution is usually stable for 7 days stored under refrigeration; however this may change according to brand available. Please consult product information.

Amoxicillin with clavulanic acid is best given with feeds to minimise gastrointestinal irritation.
Adverse Effects

Common
Diarrhoea, secondary infection especially during prolonged treatment, transient increases in liver enzymes and bilirubin

Infrequent
Vomiting, Clostridium difficile-associated disease

Rare
Rash, black tongue, neurotoxicity, bleeding, blood dyscrasias, rash, cholestatic hepatitis

Anaphylactic shock is not commonly seen in neonates.

Monitoring
> Hepatic function if treatment lasts for >14 days.

Practice Points
> Amoxicillin with clavulanic acid provides some anaerobic cover

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