

Dosage Guidelines for Commonly Used Antibiotics in Children

Translated from the original French version published October 2009

This clinical guide is provided for information purposes and is not a substitute for the practitioner's judgment.

Antibiotic Generic name/ Brand name*	Daily oral dose [†]	Dosage interval	Dosage form	Approximate cost [‡] (10-day course)	
				10-kg child	20-kg child
Amoxicillin (Amoxil® generic)	50 mg/kg/day 90 mg/kg/day (high dose)	every 8 or 12 hours	125 and 250 mg/5 ml Susp. 250 and 500 mg Cap. 125 and 250 mg Chew. Tab.	\$5 (250 mg/5 ml) \$11 (high dose)	\$11 (250 mg/5 ml) \$22 (high dose)
Amoxicillin-clavulanate potassium (Clavulin® or others)	45-50 mg/kg/day (amoxicillin)	every 8 hours (4:1 formulation)	125 and 250 mg (amoxicillin)/5 ml Susp. 250 and 500 mg Tab.	\$9 ^{II} - \$19 ^{III} (250 mg/5 ml)	\$17 ^{II} - \$37 ^{III} (250 mg/5 ml)
	45-90 mg/kg/day (amoxicillin)	every 12 hours (7:1 formulation) [§]	200 and 400 mg (amoxicillin)/5 ml Susp. 875 mg Tab.	\$28 ^{II} - \$36 ^{III} (400 mg/5 ml)	\$41 ^{II} - \$54 ^{III} (400 mg/5 ml)
Azithromycin (Zithromax® or others)	10 mg/kg D1E day 1 then 5 mg/kg/day x 4 days (otitis-pneumonia)	every 24 hours	100 and 200 mg/5 ml Susp. 250 mg Tab.	\$8 ^{II} - \$16 ^{III} (100 mg/5 ml)	\$12 ^{II} - \$23 ^{III} (200 mg/5 ml)
	12 mg/kg/day x 5 days (pharyngitis)	every 24 hours		\$12 ^{II} - \$23 ^{III} (200 mg/5 ml)	\$24 ^{II} - \$45 ^{III} (200 mg/5 ml)
Cefprozil (Cefzil® or others)	30 mg/kg/day (otitis-sinusitis)	every 12 hours	125 and 250 mg/5 ml Susp. 250 and 500 mg Tab.	\$12 ^{II} - \$24 ^{III} (250 mg/5 ml)	\$24 ^{II} - \$47 ^{III} (250 mg/5 ml)
	15 mg/kg/day (pharyngitis)	every 12 hours		\$6 ^{II} - \$12 ^{III} (125 mg/5 ml)	\$12 ^{II} - \$24 ^{III} (250 mg/5 ml)
Cefuroxime axetil (Ceftin®)	30 mg/kg/day (otitis-sinusitis)	every 12 hours	125 mg/5 ml Susp. 250 and 500 mg Tab.	\$23 (Susp.)	\$40 (Susp.)
Cephalexin (Keflex® generic)	25-50 mg/kg/day (pharyngitis)	every 6, 8 or 12 hours	125 and 250 mg/5 ml Susp. 250 and 500 mg Tab. or Cap.	\$10 (250 mg/5 ml)	\$19 (250 mg/5 ml)
Clarithromycin (Biaxin®)	15 mg/kg/day	every 12 hours	125 and 250 mg/5 ml Susp. 250 and 500 mg (Biaxin Bid ^{MC}) Tab.	\$29 (125 mg/5 ml)	\$41 (125 mg/5 ml)
Clindamycin (Dalacin C®)	20-30 mg/kg/day	every 8 hours	75 mg/5 ml Susp. 150 and 300 mg Cap.	\$23	\$34
Metronidazole (Flagyl® generic)	30 mg/kg/day	every 6 or 8 hours	250 mg Tab.	\$0.70	\$1.40
Nitrofurantoin (Macrochantin® generic)	5-7 mg/kg/day	every 6 or 8 hours	50 and 100 mg Cap.	\$3	\$6
Penicillin V (Pen-Vee®)	25-50 mg/kg/day	every 6 hours every 12 hours (pharyngitis)	125, 180, 250 and 300 mg/5 ml Susp. 300 mg Tab.	\$3 (300 mg/5 ml)	\$7 (300 mg/5 ml)
Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (Septra® generic)	8-12 mg/kg/day (trimethoprim)	every 12 hours	40 mg (TMP)/5 ml Susp. 20, 80 and 160 mg (TMP) Tab.	\$2 (Susp.)	\$4 (Susp.)
Vancomycin (Vancocin®)	40 mg/kg/day	every 6 hours	125 and 250 mg Cap.	\$296 (125 mg)	\$592 (250 mg)

* Only one brand name product is listed although several manufacturers may market other brand names.

† Daily oral dose must be divided according to recommended interval. Maximum daily dose must not exceed adult dose.

‡ Approximate cost based on price listed in the *Liste de médicaments* published by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) (June 2009), excluding pharmacist's service charge and wholesaler's markup. Certain conditions may require treatment courses that are longer or shorter than 10 days.

§ The 7:1 (BID) formulation of amoxicillin-clavulanate potassium (Clavulin®) is preferred because of its better GI tolerance.

II Price of generic drug.

III Price of brand-name drug.