

Summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance – managing common infections

- For all PHE guidance, follow [PHE's principles of treatment](#).
- See BNF for appropriate use and dosing in specific populations, for example, hepatic impairment, renal impairment, pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Key:  Click to access doses for children  Click to access NICE's printable visual summary

Infection	Key points	Medicine	Doses		Length	Visual summary
			Adult	Child		
▼ Meningitis						
<p>Suspected meningococcal disease</p> <p>NOTE: local guidance differs from that published by Public Health England</p> <p>Local guidance; last updated Feb 2019</p>	<p>Transfer all patients to hospital immediately.^{1D}</p> <p>If time before hospital admission,^{2D,3A+} and non-blanching rash,^{2D,4D} give IV cefotaxime^{2D} or IV benzylpenicillin^{1D,2D,4D}</p> <p>Do not give IV antibiotics if there is a definite history of anaphylaxis;^{1D} rash is not a contraindication.^{1D}</p>	<p>IV or IM cefotaxime^{2D} (Within Gloucestershire Cefotaxime is first choice)</p> <p>OR</p> <hr/> <p>IV or IM benzylpenicillin^{1D,2D}</p>	<p>Child <12 years: 50mg/kg^{5D} Adult/child 12+ years: 1g^{5D}</p> <hr/> <p>Child <1 year: 300mg^{5D} Child 1–9 years: 600mg^{5D} Adult/child 10+ years: 1.2g^{5D}</p>	<p>Stat dose;^{1D} give IM, if vein cannot be accessed^{1D}</p>	<p><i>Not available. Access the supporting evidence and rationales on the PHE website</i></p>	
<p>Prevention of secondary case of meningitis</p> <p>Public Health England</p> <p>Last updated: July 2019</p>	<p>Only prescribe following advice from your local health protection specialist/consultant: ☎ 9am-5pm 0300 303 8162</p> <p>Out of hours: contact Public Health on –call : ☎ 0344 257 8195</p> <p>Expert advice is available for managing clusters of meningitis. Please alert the appropriate organisation to any cluster situation.</p> <p>Public Health England, Colindale (tel: 0208 200 4400)</p> <p>AWARe (all Wales Acute Response team) (tel: 0300 003 0032)</p> <p>Access the supporting evidence and rationales on the PHE website</p>					
<p>SUSPECTED MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE – LOCAL GUIDANCE FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE</p> <p>Gloucestershire consultant microbiologists recommend Cefotaxime first line for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Cefotaxime has better blood brain barrier penetration ❖ Cefotaxime has a broader spectrum of action and is effective against Penicillin resistant <i>Pneumococci</i>, Penicillin resistant <i>Meningococci</i> and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (organisms that have all caused meningitis in patients in Gloucestershire) ❖ Cefotaxime can be given in Penicillin allergy unless history of Penicillin immediate type or severe hypersensitivity. ❖ Cephalosporins are given to patients with meningitis in hospital and therefore Cefotaxime is consistent with hospital treatment. ❖ Patients with meningitis usually come from community settings at lower risk of <i>C. difficile</i>. ❖ Cefotaxime, like Benzylpenicillin, can be given IV or IM, and has a reasonably long shelf-life for storage. <p><i>For information on how to obtain stock in primary care -please see below</i></p>						

Cefotaxime injection – how to order stock

Cefotaxime injection is no longer stocked by the pharmaceutical wholesaler Alliance Health Care. It is, however, available to be ordered for use in primary care directly from the manufacturer Bowmed Ibisqus Ltd. The cefotaxime vials are delivered and invoiced directly (no additional charge), via the pharmaceutical wholesaler AAH under a system called H marker release which permits usual hospital lines to be supplied to primary care.

Bomed Cefotaxime comes in two strengths 1g and 500mg and both are in a pack of 10 vials.

Sites wishing to obtain an order should complete the table below with their requirements to include the full address and return to orders@bowmed.com we will then authorise for delivery to the account address

Product Name & Strength <i>(please note Cefotaxime is sold in packs of 10 vials)</i>	
Number of packs	
AAH Account Number	
AAH Branch	
Delivery address details <i>(for ref only as order will go to default address on AAH account)</i>	
Contact Name	
Contact Number	

▼ **Abbreviations:** IM - intramuscular; IV- intravenous