

## 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		
<b>▼ Genital tract infections</b>						
<b>STI screening</b> Public Health England Last update: Nov 17	People with risk factors should be screened for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, HIV and syphilis. <sup>1D</sup> Refer individual and partners to GUM. <sup>1D</sup> <b>Risk factors:</b> <25 years; no condom use; recent/frequent change of partner; symptomatic or infected partner; area of high HIV. <sup>2B-</sup> <i>Access the supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a>.</i>					
<b>Chlamydia trachomatis/ urethritis</b>  Public Health England	<p>Opportunistically screen all sexually active patients aged 15 to 24 years for <i>chlamydia</i> annually and on change of sexual partner.<sup>1B-</sup></p> <p>If positive, treat index case, refer to GUM and initiate partner notification, testing and treatment.<sup>2D,3A+</sup></p> <p>As single dose azithromycin has led to increased resistance in GU infections, doxycycline should be used first line for <i>chlamydia</i> and urethritis.<sup>4A+</sup></p> <p>Advise patient with chlamydia to abstain from sexual intercourse until doxycycline is completed or for 7 days after treatment with azithromycin (14 days after azithromycin started and until symptoms resolved if urethritis).<sup>3A+,4A+</sup></p> <p>If chlamydia, test for reinfection at 3 to 6 months following treatment if under 25 years; or consider if over 25 years and high risk of re-infection.<sup>1B-,3B+, 5B-</sup></p> <p><b>Second line, pregnant, breastfeeding, allergy, or intolerance:</b> azithromycin is most effective.<sup>6A+,7D,8A+,9A+,10D</sup> As lower cure rate in pregnancy, test for cure at least 3 weeks after end of treatment.<sup>3A+</sup></p> <p>Consider referring all patients with symptomatic urethritis to GUM as testing should include <i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i> and <i>Gonorrhoea</i>.<sup>11A-</sup></p> <p>If <i>M.genitalium</i> is proven, use doxycycline followed by azithromycin using the same dosing regimen and advise to avoid sex for 14 days after start of treatment and until symptoms have resolved.<sup>11A-,12A+</sup></p>	<p><b>First line:</b> doxycycline<sup>4A+,11A-,12A+</sup></p>	100mg BD <sup>4A+,11A-,12A+</sup>	7 days <sup>4A+,11A-,12A+</sup>	Not available. Access supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a>	
Last updated: July 2019		<p><b>Second line/ pregnant/breastfeeding/ allergy/intolerance:</b> <a href="#">azithromycin</a><sup>4A+,11A-,12A+</sup></p>	1000mg <sup>4A+,11A-,12A+</sup> then 500mg OD <sup>4A+,11A-,12A+</sup>	Stat <sup>4A+,11A-,12A+</sup>  2 days <sup>4A+,11A-,12A+</sup> (total 3 days)		

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<b>Epididymitis</b>  Public Health England Last updated: Nov 2017	Usually due to Gram-negative enteric bacteria in men over 35 years with low risk of STI. <sup>1A+,2D</sup>  If under 35 years or STI risk, refer to GUM. <sup>1A+,2D</sup>	Doxycycline <sup>1A+,2D</sup> <b>OR</b> ofloxacin <sup>1A+,2D</sup> <b>OR</b> ciprofloxacin <sup>1A+,2D</sup>	100mg BD <sup>1A+,2D</sup> 200mg BD <sup>1A+,2D</sup> 500mg BD <sup>1A+,2D,3A+</sup>	-	10 to 14 days <sup>1A+,2D</sup> 14 days <sup>1A+,2D</sup> 10 days <sup>1A+,2D,3A+</sup>	Not available. Access supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a>
<b>Vaginal candidiasis</b>  Public Health England Last updated: Oct 2018	All topical and oral azoles give over 80% cure. <sup>1A+,2A+</sup> <b>Pregnant:</b> avoid oral azoles, the 7 day courses are more effective than shorter ones. <sup>1A+,3D,4A+</sup> <b>Recurrent (&gt;4 episodes per year):</b> <sup>1A+</sup> 150mg oral fluconazole every 72 hours for 3 doses induction, <sup>1A+</sup> followed by 1 dose once a week for 6 months maintenance. <sup>1A+</sup>	Clotrimazole <sup>1A+,5D</sup> <b>OR</b> fenticonazole <sup>1A+</sup> <b>OR</b> clotrimazole <sup>1A+</sup> <b>OR</b> oral fluconazole <sup>1A+,3D</sup>  <b>If recurrent:</b> fluconazole (induction/maintenance) <sup>1A+</sup>	500mg pessary <sup>1A+</sup> 600mg pessary <sup>1A+</sup> 100mg pessary <sup>1A+</sup> 150mg <sup>1A+,3D</sup>  150mg every 72 hours <b>THEN</b> 150mg once a week <sup>1A+,3D</sup>	-	Stat <sup>1A+</sup> Stat <sup>1A+</sup> 6 nights <sup>1A+</sup> Stat <sup>1A+</sup>  3 doses  6 months <sup>1A+</sup>	Not available. Access supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a>
<b>Bacterial vaginosis</b>  Public Health England Last updated: Nov 2017	Oral <a href="#">metronidazole</a> is as effective as topical treatment, <sup>1A+</sup> and is cheaper. <sup>2D</sup> 7 days results in fewer relapses than 2g stat at 4 weeks. <sup>1A+,2D</sup> <b>Pregnant/breastfeeding:</b> avoid 2g dose. <sup>3A+,4D</sup> Treating partners does not reduce relapse. <sup>5A+</sup>	Oral metronidazole <sup>1A+,3A+</sup> <b>OR</b> metronidazole 0.75% vaginal gel <sup>1A+,2D,3A+</sup> <b>OR</b> clindamycin 2% cream <sup>1A+,2D</sup>	400mg BD <sup>1A+,3A+</sup> <b>OR</b> 2000mg <sup>1A+,2D</sup>  5g applicator at night <sup>1A+,2D,3A+</sup>  5g applicator at night <sup>1A+,2D</sup>	-	7 days <sup>1A+</sup> <b>OR</b> Stat <sup>2D</sup> 5 nights <sup>1A+,2D,3A+</sup> 7 nights <sup>1A+,2D,3A+</sup>	Not available. Access supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a>

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<b>Genital herpes</b>  Public Health England  Last updated: Nov 2017	<b>Advise:</b> saline bathing, <sup>1A+</sup> analgesia, <sup>1A+</sup> or topical lidocaine for pain, <sup>1A+</sup> and discuss transmission. <sup>1A+</sup>  <b>First episode:</b> treat within 5 days if new lesions or systemic symptoms, <sup>1A+,2D</sup> and refer to GUM. <sup>2D</sup>  <b>Recurrent:</b> self-care if mild, <sup>2D</sup> or immediate short course antiviral treatment, <sup>1A+,2D</sup> or suppressive therapy if more than 6 episodes per year. <sup>1A+,2D</sup>	Oral aciclovir <sup>1A+,2D,3A+,4A+</sup> <b>OR</b>	400mg TDS <sup>1A+,3A+</sup>	-	5 days <sup>1A+</sup>	<i>Not available. Access supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a></i>
			800mg TDS (if recurrent) <sup>1A+</sup>		2 days <sup>1A+</sup>	
		valaciclovir <sup>1A+,3A+,4A+</sup> <b>OR</b>	500mg BD <sup>1A+</sup>		5 days <sup>1A+</sup>	
			250mg TD <sup>1A+</sup>		5 days <sup>1A+</sup>	
		famciclovir <sup>1A+,4A+</sup>	1000mg BD (if recurrent) <sup>1A+</sup>		1 day <sup>1A+</sup>	
<b>Gonorrhoea</b>  Public Health England  Last updated: Feb 2019	Antibiotic resistance is now very high. <sup>1D,2D</sup> Use IM ceftriaxone if susceptibility not known prior to treatment <sup>2D</sup> .  Use Ciprofloxacin <b>only</b> If susceptibility is known prior to treatment and the isolate is sensitive to ciprofloxacin at all sites of infection <sup>1D,2D</sup> Refer to GUM. <sup>3B-</sup> Test of cure is essential. <sup>2D</sup>	Ceftriaxone <sup>2D</sup> <b>OR</b>	1000mg IM <sup>2D</sup>	-	Stat <sup>2D</sup>	<i>Not available. Access supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a></i>
		ciprofloxacin <sup>2D</sup> (only if known to be sensitive)	500mg <sup>2D</sup>		Stat <sup>2D</sup>	
<b>Trichomoniasis</b>  Public Health England  Last updated: Nov 2017	Oral treatment needed as extravaginal infection common. <sup>1D</sup> Treat partners, <sup>1D</sup> and refer to GUM for other STIs. <sup>1D</sup>  <b>Pregnant/breastfeeding:</b> avoid 2g single dose metronidazole; <sup>2A+,3D</sup> <a href="#">clotrimazole</a> for symptom relief (not cure) if metronidazole declined. <sup>2A+,4A-,5D</sup>	Metronidazole <sup>1A+,2A+,3D,6A+</sup>	400mg BD <sup>1A+,6A+</sup> 2g (more adverse effects) <sup>6A+</sup>	-	5–7 day <sup>1A+</sup> Stat <sup>1A+,6A+</sup>	<i>Not available. Access supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a></i>
		<b>Pregnancy to treat symptoms:</b> clotrimazole <sup>2A+,4A-,5D</sup>	100mg pessary at night <sup>5D</sup>		6 nights <sup>5D</sup>	

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<b>Pelvic inflammatory disease</b>  Public Health England  Last updated: Feb 2019	<b>Refer</b> women and sexual contacts to GUM. <sup>1A+</sup> <b>Raised CRP</b> supports diagnosis, absent pus cells in HVS smear good negative predictive value. <sup>1A+</sup> <b>Exclude:</b> ectopic pregnancy, appendicitis, endometriosis, UTI, irritable bowel, complicated ovarian cyst, functional pain. Moxifloxacin has greater activity against likely pathogens, but always test for gonorrhoea, chlamydia, and <i>M. genitalium</i> . <sup>1A+</sup> If <i>M. genitalium</i> tests positive use moxifloxacin. <sup>1A+</sup>	<b>First line therapy:</b> Ceftriaxone <sup>1A+,3C,4C</sup> <b>PLUS</b>	1000mg IM <sup>1A+,3C</sup>		Stat <sup>1A+,3C</sup>	Not available. Access supporting evidence and rationales on the <a href="#">PHE website</a>
		metronidazole <sup>1A+,5A+</sup> <b>PLUS</b>	400mg BD <sup>1A+</sup>		14 days <sup>1A+</sup>	
		doxycycline <sup>1A+,5A+</sup>	100mg BD <sup>1A+</sup>		14 days <sup>1A+</sup>	
		<b>Second line therapy:</b> metronidazole <sup>1A+,5A+</sup> <b>PLUS</b>	400mg BD <sup>1A+</sup>	-	14 days <sup>1A+</sup>	
		ofloxacin <sup>1A+,2A-,5A+</sup> <b>OR</b>	400mg BD <sup>1A+,2A-</sup>		14 days <sup>1A+</sup>	
moxifloxacin alone <sup>1A+</sup>	400mg OD <sup>1A+</sup>		14 days <sup>1A+</sup>			
(first line for <i>M. genitalium</i> associated PID)						