



Government of Malawi
Ministry of Health

Antibiotics Reference Card

Summary Chart: Antibiotics for Children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in Inpatient Care

| IF: | GIVE: | |
|--|---|---|
| NO MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS | Amoxicillin oral (15 mg/kg) every 8 hours for 5 days | |
| MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS (shock, hypoglycaemia, hypothermia, dermatosis with raw skin/fissures, respiratory or urinary tract infections or lethargic/sickly appearance) | Gentamicin IV or IM (7.5 mg/kgmg/kg) once daily for 7 days, plus: | |
| | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Benzylopenicillin IV or IM (50,000 IU/kg) every 6 hours for 2 days</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Followed by: Amoxicillin oral (15 mg/kg) every 8 hours for 5 days</td> </tr> </table> | Benzylopenicillin IV or IM (50,000 IU/kg) every 6 hours for 2 days |
| Benzylopenicillin IV or IM (50,000 IU/kg) every 6 hours for 2 days | Followed by: Amoxicillin oral (15 mg/kg) every 8 hours for 5 days | |
| Resistance to amoxicillin and benzylopenicillin, and presence of medical complications | In the case of sepsis or septic shock , give: IV/IM ceftriaxone (children or infants over 1 month of age (100 mg/kg once a day) | |
| | If suspected staphylococcal infections , add: IV/IM cloxacillin (25–50 mg/kg/dose four times a day, depending on the severity of the infection). If out of stock, give oral flucloxacillin 25–50 mg/kg every 6 hours | |
| No improvement after 48 hours on benzylopenicillin and gentamicin | CEFTRIAZONE 100 mg/kg IV or IM once a day for 5 days (infants <3 kg: 50 mg/kg) | |
| Specific infection requires an additional antibiotic | Add specific antibiotic as per standard treatment guidelines for Malawi | |
| Child is HIV-positive or exposed. | Cotrimoxazole oral according to the Malawi Guidelines for Clinical Management of HIV | |

Specific Formulations and Body Weight Ranges for Antibiotics for SAM Children in Inpatient Care

| ROUTE/DOSE/ FREQUENCY/ DURATION | FORMULATION | DOSE ACCORDING TO CHILD'S WEIGHT | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | 3 up to 6 kg | 6 up to 8 kg | 8 up to 10 kg |
| Amoxicillin | | | | |
| Oral: 15 mg/kg body weight every 8 hours for 5 days | Syrup, 125 mg/5 ml | 2.5 ml | 5 ml | 5 ml |
| | Syrup, 250 mg/5 ml | 1.5 ml | 2 ml | 2.5 ml |
| Benzylpenicillin | | | | |
| IV or IM: 50,000 units/kg body weight every 6 hours for 5 days | IV: vial of 600 mg mixed with 9.6 ml sterile water to give 1,000,000 units/10 ml | 2 ml | 3.5 ml | 4.5 ml |
| | IM: vial of 600 mg mixed with 1.6 ml sterile water to give 1,000,000 units/2 ml | 0.4 ml | 0.7 ml | 0.9 ml |

| Gentamicin | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| ROUTE/DOSE FREQUENCY/ DURATION | FORMULATION | DOSES FOR SPECIFIC BODY WEIGHTS (<i>Use closest weight</i>) | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 3 kg | 4 kg | 5 kg | 6 kg | 7 kg | 8 kg | 9 kg | 10 kg | 11 kg | 12 kg |
| IV or IM: 7.5 mg/kg once daily for 7 days | IV/IM: vial containing 20 mg (2 ml at 10 mg/ml), undiluted | 2.25 ml | 3 ml | 3.75 ml | 4.5 ml | 5.25 ml | 6 ml | 6.75 ml | 7.5 ml | 8.25 ml | 9 ml |
| | IV/IM: vial containing 80 mg (2 ml at 40 mg/ml) mixed with 6 ml sterile water to give 80 mg/8 ml | 2.25 ml | 3 ml | 3.75 ml | 4.5 ml | 5.25 ml | 6 ml | 6.75 ml | 7.5 ml | 8.25 ml | 9 ml |
| | IV/IM: vial containing 80 mg (2 ml at 40 mg/ml), undiluted | 0.5 ml | 0.75 ml | 0.9 ml | 1.1 ml | 1.3 ml | 1.5 ml | 1.7 ml | 1.9 ml | 2 ml | 2.25 ml |