Cefalexin (Cephalexin)
For newborn use only

Alert
The Antimicrobial Stewardship Team recommends this drug is listed under the following category: Unrestricted.

Indication
Treatment of mild infections due to susceptible strains of bacteria.
Prophylaxis of urinary tract infections in patients at risk (e.g. vesicoureteric reflux).

Action
First generation cephalosporin. Bactericidal – inhibits cell wall synthesis in susceptible organisms. Most active against Gram-positive cocci, including MSSA and streptococci. Has no activity against enterococci, MRSA or Listeria.1

Drug Type
Cephalosporin antibiotic.

Trade Name
APO-Cephalexin, Cefalexin Sandoz, Ialex, Ibilex, Keflex.

Presentation
125 mg/5 mL suspension
250 mg/5mL suspension

Dosage / Interval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postnatal Age (Days)</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Interval</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0─7 days</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 mg/kg</td>
<td>12-hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8─28 days</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 mg/kg</td>
<td>8-hourly</td>
</tr>
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<td>29+ days</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 mg/kg</td>
<td>6-hourly</td>
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Prophylaxis of urinary tract infection (UTI)
12.5 (10–15) mg/kg/dose DAILY (maximum dose 125 mg daily).7,8

Prophylaxis around Voiding Cystourethrogram
12.5 (10–15) mg/kg/dose 8-hourly for 3 days (day prior, on the day and one day after MCU).10

Route
Oral

Maximum Daily Dose
500 mg

Preparation/Dilution
Powder usually reconstituted by Pharmacy. If supplied unreconstituted, reconstitute powder for oral suspension using water for injection with the volume specified on the bottle.

Administration
Oral: Prophylactic dose: May be taken with or without food. Treatment dose: Preferably commence treatment without feeds (faster absorption and higher peak concentrations)3
Shake bottle well before measuring dose.

Monitoring
Monitor renal, hepatic and haematological function with prolonged use.

Contraindications
Hypersensitivity to cephalosporins. Immediate hypersensitivity or severe reaction to penicillins.

Precautions
Use with caution in patients with hypersensitivity or mild adverse reactions to penicillins or carbapenems as cross-reactivity can occur (e.g. rash).

Drug Interactions
Nil relevant.

Adverse Reactions
Diarrhoea, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting.
Pseudomembranous colitis (rare).
Transient elevation of liver enzymes.

Compatibility
Can be given with food.

Incompatibility
Not applicable.

Stability
Reconstituted solution should be discarded after 14 days.

Storage
Store powder below 25°C
Store reconstituted solution between 2 and 8°C

Special Comments
May cause false positive Coombs test.
Consider increasing dosing interval in significant renal impairment.

Evidence summary
Refer to full version.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References</th>
<th>Refer to full version.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Original version Date: 08/08/2015</th>
<th>Author: ANMF Consensus Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previous Version number: 1.1</td>
<td>Previous Version Date: 25/11/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current version Number: 2.0</td>
<td>Current version date: 20/05/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk Rating: Low</td>
<td>Due for Review: 20/05/2024</td>
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<td>Approval by: As per Local policy</td>
<td>Approval Date: As per Local policy</td>
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#### Authors Contribution

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