



Government of Sierra Leone  
Ministry of Health and Sanitation

**Doing Saves Lives**  
**Give Correct Treatment**  
**To Newborns**



### Antibiotic Doses for Newborns less than 7 days old

Weight kg	Penicillin (50,000iu/kg)	Ampicillin / Cloxacillin (50mg/kg)	Gentamicin (3mg/kg <2kg, 5mg/kg ? 2kg)	Ceftriaxone (50mg/kg)	Metronidazole (7.5mg/kg)
	iv / im	iv / im	iv / im	iv / im	iv
	12 hrly	12 hrly	24 hrly	24 hrly	12 hrly
1.00	50,000	50	3	50	7.5
1.25	75,000	60	4	50	10
1.50	75,000	75	5	75	12.5
1.75	100,000	85	6	75	12.5
2.00	100,000	100	10	100	15
2.50	150,000	125	12.5	125	20
3.00	150,000	150	15	150	22.5
4.00	200,000	200	20	200	30

### Oral Antibiotic doses less than 7 days of Age

Weight kg	Amoxicillin,	Ampicillin / Cloxacillin
	25mg/kg	25mg/kg
	125mg/5mls 12 hrly	125mg/5mls 12 hrly
2.00	2	2
2.50	3	3
3.00	3	3
4.00	4	4

Diagnosis and Signs	Duration / Days of treatment (ALWAYS Check instructions in Notes)
<b>Signs of Infection in a newborn breast feeding well.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antibiotics can be stopped after 48 hours <b>IF</b> the child is feeding well without fever and has no other problem <b>and LP, if done, is normal.</b></li> <li>Child can go home with oral treatment to complete <b>5 days</b> in total. Advise the mother to return with the child if problems recur.</li> </ul>
<b>Skin infection with signs of generalised illness such as poor feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IV / IM antibiotics could be stopped after 48 hours if the child is feeding well without fever and has no other problem <b>and LP, if done, is normal.</b></li> <li>Oral antibiotics should be continued for a <b>further 5 days.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Clinical or radiological pneumonia.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IV / IM antibiotics should be continued for a minimum of <b>5 days</b> or until completely well for 24 hrs.</li> </ul>
<b>Severe Neonatal Sepsis with coma / inability to feed.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The child should have had an LP.</li> <li>IV / IM antibiotics should be continued for a minimum of <b>7 days</b> or until completely well if the LP is clear</li> </ul>
<b>Neonatal meningitis or severe sepsis and no LP performed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IV / IM antibiotics should be continued for a minimum of <b>14 days.</b></li> <li>If Gram negative meningitis is suspected treatment should be iv for <b>3 weeks.</b></li> </ul>