

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	Bactericidal – inhibits cell wall synthesis in susceptible organisms. Active against Streptococci and Staphylococci and against a limited range of gram-negative bacteria (including <i>Escherichia coli</i> and some <i>Klebsiella</i> species).														
Drug Type	Cephalosporin antibiotic.														
Trade Name	APO-Cephalexin, Cefalexin Sandoz, Chemmart Cephalexin, Cilex, Ialex, Ibilex, Keflex, Terry White Chemists Cephalexin														
Presentation	125 mg/5 mL suspension 250 mg/5mL suspension														
Dosage / Interval	<p>Treatment</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Method</th> <th rowspan="2">Interval</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Postnatal Age (Days)</th> <th>Dose</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0–7 days</td> <td>25 mg/kg</td> <td>12 hourly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8–28 days</td> <td>25 mg/kg</td> <td>8 hourly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29+ days</td> <td>25 mg/kg</td> <td>6 hourly</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Prophylaxis 12.5 mg/kg/dose DAILY (nocte)</p>	Method		Interval	Postnatal Age (Days)	Dose	0–7 days	25 mg/kg	12 hourly	8–28 days	25 mg/kg	8 hourly	29+ days	25 mg/kg	6 hourly
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Postnatal Age (Days)	Dose														
0–7 days	25 mg/kg	12 hourly													
8–28 days	25 mg/kg	8 hourly													
29+ days	25 mg/kg	6 hourly													
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: Can be given with or without feeds. 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. Hypersensitivity: Immediate – urticaria, bronchospasm, anaphylaxis. Delayed – maculopapular rash, fever, eosinophilia.														
Compatibility	Not available IV.														
Incompatibility	Not available IV.														
Stability	Reconstituted solution should be discarded after 14 days.														
Storage	Store powder below 25°C Store reconstituted solution between 2–8°C														
Special Comments	May cause false positive Coombs test. Consider increasing dosing interval in significant renal impairment.														
Evidence summary	To be updated.														

References	<p>1. MIMSONline Cited: 15/05/2015.</p> <p>2. Micromedex® 2.0, (electronic version). Truven Health Analytics, Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA. Available at: http://www.micromedexsolutions.com.acs.hcn.com.au Cited 15/4/2015.</p> <p>3. Australian Medicine Handbook 2015 (online). Adelaide: Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd; 2015 January.</p> <p>4. Antibiotic Expert Groups. Therapeutic guidelines: antibiotic. Version 15. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Limited; 2014.</p>
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Original version Date: 08/08/2015	Author: NeoMed Consensus Group
Current Version number: 1.1	Version Date: 25/11/2016
Risk Rating: Medium	Due for Review: 08/08/2018
Approval by: As per Local policy	Approval Date: As per Local policy