IAWG

INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN CRISES

Newborn Health in Humanitarian Settings

FIELD GUIDE

Save the Children

World Health Organization

unicef

ANNEX 2

Doses of Common Drugs for Neonates

ANNEX 2: Doses of Common Drugs for Neonates

DRUG	DOSAGE	FORM
Aminophylline to prevent apnoea	Calculate the exact oral maintenance dose **Loading dose:** Oral or IV over 30 minutes 6 mg/kg, then **Maintenance dose:** **First week of life: Oral:** 2.5 mg/ kg every 12 h **Weeks 2–4 of life: Oral:** 4 mg/kg every 12h	250 mg/10 ml vial. Dilute loading dose to 5 ml with sterile water, give slowly over 15–30 min
Ampicillin	IM/IV: 50 mg/kg **First week of life:** every 12 h **Weeks 2–4 of life:** every 8 h	Vial of 250 mg mixed with 1.3 ml sterile water to 250 mg/1.5 ml
Caffeine citrate	Calculate the exact oral maintenance dose **Loading dose:** Oral: 20 mg/kg (or IV over 30 min) **Maintenance dose:** 5 mg/kg daily oral (or IV over 30 min)	
Cefotaxime	IV: 50 mg/kg Premature infants: every 12 h **First week of life:** every 8 h **Weeks 2–4 of life:** every 6 h	Vial of 500 mg mixed with 2 ml sterile water to 250 mg/ml

WEIGHT OF INFANT IN KG						
1–< 1.5	1.5–< 2	2–2.5	2.5–< 3	3–3.5	3.5–< 4	4–< 4.5
0.6 ml	0.8 ml	1.0 ml	Aminophylline is not usually used for term infants.			
0.1– 0.15 ml 0.15– 0.2 ml	0.15– 0.20 ml 0.25– 0.3 ml	0.20– 0.25 ml 0.30– 0.4 ml				
0.3– 0.6 ml	0.6– 0.9 ml	0.9– 1.2 ml	1.2– 1.5 ml	1.5– 2.0 ml	2.0– 2.5 ml	2.5– 3.0 ml
20–30 mg	30–40 mg	40–50 mg	50–60 mg	60–70 mg	70–80 mg	80–90 mg
5–7.5 mg	7.5–10 mg	10–12.5 mg	12.5–15 mg	15–17.5 mg	17.5–20 mg	20–22.5 mg
0.3 ml	0.4 ml	0.5 ml	0.6 ml	0.7 ml	0.8 ml	0.9 ml

DRUG	DOSAGE	FORM
Ceftriaxone For meningitis	**IV:** 50 mg/kg every 12 h	1-g vial mix with 9.6 ml sterile water to 1 g/10 ml
	IM /IV: 100 mg/kg once a day	
For pus draining from eye	50 mg/kg once IM (max, 125 mg)	
Cloxacillin	25–50 mg/kg per dose **First week of life:** every 12 h	25-mg vial mixed with 1.3 ml sterile water to 250 mg/1.5 ml
	Weeks 2–4 of life: every 8 h	
Gentamicin	Preferably calculate exact dose based on the infant's weight	
	First week of life: **Low-birth-weight infants**: IM /IV: 3 mg/kg once a day **Normal birth weight:** IM /IV: 5 mg/kg per dose once a day	Vial 20 mg/2 ml Vial 80 mg/2 ml Dilute to 8 ml with sterile water to 10 mg/ml
	Weeks 2–4 of life: IM / **IV:** 7.5 mg/kg once a day	
Note: *To use a vial of 80 mg/2 ml, dilute to 8 ml with sterile water to 10 mg/ml,*		
Kanamycin	IM /IV: 20 mg/kg (one dose for pus draining from eyes)	2-ml vial to make 125 mg/ml

WEIGHT OF INFANT IN KG						
1–< 1.5	1.5–< 2	2–2.5	2.5–< 3	3–3.5	3.5–< 4	4–< 4.5
0.5–0.75 ml	0.75–1 ml	1–1.25 ml	1.25–1.5 ml	1.5–1.75 ml	1.75–2 ml	2–2.5 ml
1–1.5 ml	1.5–2 ml	2–2.5 ml	2.5–3 ml	3–3.5 ml	3.5–4 ml	4–4.5 ml
25 mg/kg: 0.15–0.3 ml	0.3–0.5 ml	0.5–0.6 ml	0.6–0.75 ml	0.75–1.0 ml	1.0–1.25 ml	1.25–1.5 ml
50 mg/kg: 0.3–0.6 ml	0.6–0.9 ml	0.9–1.2 ml	1.2–1.5 ml	1.5–2.0 ml	2–2.5 ml	2.5–3.0 ml
0.3–0.5 ml	0.5–0.6 ml	0.6–0.75 ml	1.25–1.5 ml	1.5–1.75 ml	1.75–2 ml	2–2.25 ml
0.75–1.1 ml	1.1–1.5 ml	1.5–1.8 ml	1.8–2.2 ml	2.2–2.6 ml	2.6–3.0 ml	3.0–3.3 ml
then use exactly the same dose as in the table above.						
0.2–0.3 ml	0.3–0.4 ml	0.4–0.5 ml	0.5–0.6 ml	0.6–0.7 ml	0.7–0.8 ml	0.8–1.0 ml

DRUG	DOSAGE	FORM
Naloxone	0.1 mg/kg	Vial 0.4 mg/ml
PENICILLIN		
Benzylpenicillin	50 000 U/kg per dose **First week of life:** every 12 h **Weeks 2–4 and older:** every 6 h	Vial of 600 mg (1 000 000 U) dilute with 1.6 ml sterile water to 500 000 U/ml
Benzathine benzylpenicillin	50 000 U/kg once a day	IM: vial of 1 200 000 U mixed with 4 ml sterile water
Procaine benzylpenicillin	IM: 50 000 U/kg once a day	3-g vial (3 000 000 U) mixed with 4 ml sterile water
Phenobarbital	**Loading dose:** IM /IV or oral: 20 mg/kg	Vial 200 mg/ml diluted with 4 ml sterile water
		30-mg tablets
	Maintenance dose: Oral: 5 mg/kg per day	30-mg tablets

Source: WHO. *Pocket Book of Hospital Care for Children.* Second edition. WHO, 2013. www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/9241546700/en/

WEIGHT OF INFANT IN KG						
1–< 1.5	1.5–< 2	2–2.5	2.5–< 3	3–3.5	3.5–< 4	4–< 4.5
0.25 ml	0.25 ml	0.5 ml	0.5 ml	0.75 ml	0.75 ml	1 ml
0.2 ml	0.2 ml	0.3 ml	0.5 ml	0.5 ml	0.6 ml	0.7 ml
0.2 ml	0.3 ml	0.4 ml	0.5 ml	0.6 ml	0.7 ml	0.8 ml
0.1 ml	0.15 ml	0.2 ml	0.25 ml	0.3 ml	0.3 ml	0.35 ml
Calculate the **exact** dose						
½	¾	1	1¼	1½	1¾	2
¼	¼	½	½	½	¾	¾