

Pediatric Enteral Antibiotic Dosing

The purpose of this chart is to assist in empiric dosing strategies for enteral antibiotics for pediatric patients. Individualization of dosing based on patient physiology and clinical condition is encouraged. For assistance with dose modifications based on organ dysfunction, please consult a pharmacist.

Generic name	Daily Dose (mg/kg/day)	Dosing Interval*	Maximum Total Daily Dose (mg)	Comments
Amoxicillin	25-50	BID or TID	2000	
Amoxicillin – high dose	80-100	BID or TID	3000	TID preferred for bacterial pneumonia; up to 4000 mg/day for select indications (e.g., osteomyelitis)
Amoxicillin/clavulanate 7:1	45	BID or TID	1750	
Amoxicillin/clavulanate 14:1 – high dose	80-100	BID or TID	3000	TID preferred for bacterial pneumonia; up to 4000 mg/day for select indications (e.g., osteomyelitis)
Azithromycin	5	Daily	500	Loading dose 10 mg/kg on Day 1
Cefdinir	14	BID	600	
Cefixime	8	Daily or BID	400	
Cefpodoxime	10	BID	400	
Cefprozil	30	BID	1000	
Cefuroxime	30	BID	1000	Only available as tablets (250 mg, 500 mg)
Cephalexin	50-100	TID or QID	4000	Up to 150 mg/kg/day for osteomyelitis
Ciprofloxacin	20-40	BID	1500	
Clarithromycin	15	BID	1000	
Clindamycin	30-40	TID or QID	1800	
Doxycycline	4.4	BID	200	
Erythromycin	40-50	TID	2000	
Levofloxacin	10	Daily	750	↑ to 20 mg/kg/day divided BID if < 5 yr old
Linezolid	20	BID	1200	↑ to 30 mg/kg/day divided TID if < 12 yr old
Metronidazole	30-50	TID or QID	4000	
Penicillin	25-75	TID or QID	2000	
Trimethoprim/ sulfamethoxazole	6-12	BID	640	Dose based on trimethoprim

* BID: twice daily; TID: three times daily; QID: four times daily

References:

1. Bradley JS, Nelson JD, Barnett E, et al. *2024 Nelson's Pediatric Antimicrobial Therapy*. 30th ed. American Academy of Pediatrics; 2024.
2. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). In: Kimberlin DW, Brady MT, Jackson MA, Long SA, eds. *Red Book: 2021-2024 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 32nd ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2021.
3. Gilbert DN, Chambers HF, Saag MS, et al., eds. *The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy 2024*. 54th ed. Sperryville, VA; 2024.

Resources are intended for informational purposes only. Resources are current at the date of publication and reviewed on a regular basis to align with best available evidence. It is not intended to establish a protocol for all patients or replace a clinician's judgment. Adherence to this resource is voluntary. Medicine is a dynamic science; as research and clinical experience enhance and inform the practice of medicine, changes in recommendations may be required. Neither the authors nor Children's Hospital and Health System, Inc. warrant the information contained is in every respect accurate or complete, and are not responsible for errors in, omissions from, or results obtained from the use of this information. Readers are encouraged to confirm the information contained in this work with other sources.

Original: 3/2018

Last revised: 6/2026

Process owner: Antimicrobial Stewardship Program