

Waterford: Antimicrobial Guidelines - Antimicrobial Guideline: Intrapartum Antimicrobial Prophylaxis (IAP) for the Reduction of Early onset Invasive Group B Strep

Intrapartum Antimicrobial Prophylaxis (IAP) for the Reduction of Early onset Invasive Group B Streptococcal Disease in the Neonate

These antibiotic recommendations are indicated for the **reduction of GBS infection in the neonate** and **NOT treatment of infection in the mother**.

In sepsis/clinically unwell/pyrexia in labour, the antibiotics listed below are NOT suitable. Please see section on [Sepsis in Pregnancy](#) or [Pyrexia in Labour](#).

Group B Streptococci (GBS) are universally susceptible to penicillin and most cephalosporins including cefuroxime. Between 20-30% of GBS isolates both locally and nationally are resistant to clindamycin therefore for empiric use (where susceptibility is unknown) clindamycin cannot be recommended.

For further information on penicillin allergy see [Table](#) below.

Indications for IAP

- Woman with a previous baby with invasive GBS disease regardless of GBS status in current pregnancy.
- GBS colonization, bacteriuria or infection in current or previous pregnancy.
- Preterm labour or induction of labour prior to 37 weeks with or without rupture of membranes irrespective of GBS carrier status.
- Prolonged rupture of membranes >18hrs.
- Pyrexia in labour (a single temperature >38°C).

First line Antibiotics

Benzylpenicillin 3g IV loading dose, then 1.8g IV every 4 hours until delivery.

NB: Benzylpenicillin should be administered as an **infusion** over 30-60 minutes.

Rapid administration has been associated with CNS toxicity including seizures and coma.

Penicillin Allergy

NOT IgE-mediated/anaphylaxis or severe penicillin allergy:

CefUROXime 1.5g IV QDS until delivery.

IgE-mediated/anaphylaxis or severe penicillin allergy:

Vancomycin 15mg/kg IV 12 hourly (use booking weight, max 2g/dose) ([Please see Vancomycin dosing schedule](#))

NB: Vancomycin should be administered at a maximum rate of 10mg/min to avoid infusion reactions such as "red man syndrome".

OR

Clindamycin 900mg TDS IV IF GBS isolate is known to be clindamycin susceptible

(20-30% of GBS isolates both locally and nationally are resistant to clindamycin)

References

Volume 1. Medication Guidelines for Obstetrics and Gynaecology. First Edition. Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines. HSE Clinical Programme for Obstetrics and Gynaecology 2017.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/antimicrobial-prescribing-guidelines>.

Volume 2 Antimicrobial Safety in Pregnancy and Lactation, Medication Guidelines For Obstetrics and Gynaecology First Edition. HSE Clinical Programme for Obstetrics and Gynaecology 2017.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/antimicrobial-safety-in-pregnancy-and-lactation.pdf>

RCOG Green-top Guideline No. 36, September 2017. "Prevention of Early-onset Neonatal Group B Streptococcal Disease" <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/gtg36/>

ACOG Prevention of Group B Streptococcal Early-Onset Disease in Newborns Committee Opinion Number 797 February 2020.

https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2020/02/prevention-of-group-b-streptococcal-early-onset-disease-in-newborns?utm_source=vanity&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=clinical#6

S J Knowles et al. Maternal sepsis incidence, aetiology and outcome for mother and fetus: a prospective study. BJOG 2015 Apr;122(5):663-71.

National Clinical Practice Guideline: Prevention of Early Onset Group B Streptococcal Disease in Term Infants. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

January 2023. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/clinical-guidelines/prevention-of-early-onset-group-b-streptococcal-disease-in-term-infants-2023-pdf>

National Clinical Guideline N026 Sepsis management for adults including maternity 2021 <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/197784/2e897cca-3657-4753-b420-c397474dd171.pdf#page=null>