

BENZYL PENICILLIN

ACTIONS AND USES

It is a narrow spectrum antibiotic active against Gram positive organisms especially Group B Streptococcus. First line antibiotic for suspected early onset sepsis along with gentamicin.

DOSAGE

There are three IV dosing regimes:

1. Standard regime For suspected early onset sepsis

Dose: 25mg/kg/dose

Dose intervals:	Post Natal Age	0 - 7 days:	12 hourly	
			8 - 28 days:	8 hourly
			> 28 days:	6 hourly

2. Severe infection regime (excluding meningitis) For severe infections such as septicaemia.

Dose: 50mg/kg/dose

Dose intervals: as above.

3. Meningitis regime For proven meningitis.

Dose: 75mg/kg/dose

Dose intervals: 8 hourly

ADMINISTRATION

25mg/kg/dose IV bolus over 3 minutes.

50mg/kg/dose and 75mg/kg/dose by short IV infusion over 30 minutes. Do not exceed this rate as high levels can cause irritation of the central nervous system.

RECONSTITUTION

Benzylpenicillin is available as a dry powder containing 600mg (1 mega unit) per vial.

Benzylpenicillin solution 100mg/ml

Add 5.6ml of water for injections to a benzylpenicillin vial 600mg and shake well. Further dilution is not necessary.

INCOMPATIBILITIES

Amphotericin, flucloxacillin, heparin, bicarbonate and phosphate ions and solutions containing metal ions.

COMPATIBILITIES

Guidelines for medicine administration - Lothian Neonatal Service

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Sodium chloride 0.9%, glucose 5%. Avoid mixing with any other drug or solution without confirming with pharmacy.

STORAGE

Use reconstituted intravenous solutions immediately, do not store.

MONITORING

Observe for hypersensitivity reactions and thrombophlebitis or vein irritation. Large doses may cause hypokalaemia or hypernatraemia.