

Community Acquired Pneumonia (Adults): Antibiotic Treatment Table

Assess using the CRB-65 score (each symptom or sign scores one point)

(Confusion, Respiratory rate \geq 30/min, BP \leq 90/60 mmHg, Age \geq 65)

Drug	Dose	Duration	Notes
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CRB 65 Score Zero (0) Suitable for home treatment

Review if symptoms are not improving as expected with antibiotics and escalate therapy, or consider hospital referral.

Amoxicillin	500mg every 8 hours	5 days	Avoid in penicillin allergy. If no response after 48 hours on Amoxicillin monotherapy, consider addition of Clarithromycin or change to Doxycycline
OR Doxycycline	200mg every 24 hours*	5 days	Avoid in pregnancy. Advise to take with a glass of water and sit upright for 30 minutes after taking. Can take with food or milk if gastritis is an issue. Absorption of doxycycline significantly impaired by antacids, iron/calcium/magnesium/zinc-containing products.
OR Clarithromycin (Second line in penicillin allergy)	500mg every 12 hours	5 days	Macrolides should be used with caution in pregnancy. Clarithromycin suitable only in 2 nd and 3 rd trimester in pregnancy. Alternative macrolide for all trimesters of pregnancy: Azithromycin 500mg stat then 250mg every 24 hours from Day 2 to Day 5.

CRB 65 Score 1-2 and assessed suitable for treatment in the community

Review if symptoms are not improving as expected with antibiotics and escalate therapy, or consider hospital referral.

Amoxicillin PLUS Clarithromycin	500mg - 1g every 8 hours 500mg every 12 hours	5 days	Avoid amoxicillin in penicillin allergy. Macrolides should be used with caution in pregnancy. Clarithromycin suitable only in 2 nd and 3 rd trimester in pregnancy. Alternative macrolide for all trimesters of pregnancy: Azithromycin 500mg stat then 250mg every 24 hours from Day 2 to Day 5.
OR Doxycycline	200mg every 24 hours*	5 days	Avoid in pregnancy. Advise to take with a glass of water and sit upright for 30 minutes after taking. Can take with food or milk if gastritis is an issue. Absorption of doxycycline significantly impaired by antacids, iron/calcium/magnesium/zinc-containing products.

CRB 65 Score 3 or more : urgent hospital admission

Administer Benzylpenicillin prior to transfer	1.2g IV/IM	N/A	Avoid in penicillin allergy Urgent hospital admission Seek risk factors for <i>Legionella</i> and <i>Staph.aureus</i> infection
Or Amoxicillin	1g PO	N/A	