

Pneumonia / Aspiration Pneumonia: 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 0-2 and assessed suitable for treatment in the residential care facility/ nursing home

Review if symptoms are not improving within 48-72 hours as expected with antibiotics and escalate therapy, or consider hospital referral.

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| 1st line option Amoxicillin | CRB-65 score 0: 500mg every 8 hours CRB-65 score 1-2: 500mg -1g every 8 hours | 5 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid in penicillin allergy. Amoxicillin liquid available: 250mg/5ml or 125mg/5ml Consider adding Clarithromycin 500mg every 12 hours for 5 days if concern of atypical pathogen (e.g. mycoplasma, legionella). See the Macrolide warning and check for drug interactions Clarithromycin liquid available: 250mg/5ml or 125mg/5ml |
| 2nd line option Doxycycline (1 st line in penicillin allergy) | 200mg every 24 hours or 100mg every 12 hours | 5 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If dysphagia is a concern, do not open capsules as the contents can cause oesophageal irritation. Doxycycline is available as 100mg dispersible tablet (ULM) - see expert advisory comments. Advise to take with a glass of water and sit upright for 30 minutes after taking. Can take with food or milk. Absorption is significantly impaired by antacids, iron/calcium/magnesium/zinc-containing products. <p>Alternatively consider clarithromycin 500mg every 12 hours for 5 days if doxycycline contraindicated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the Macrolide warning and check for drug interactions Clarithromycin liquid available: 250mg/5ml or 125mg/5ml |

CRB-65 Score 3 or more : Consider urgent hospital transfer or treat in a nursing home/ residential care facility if not for hospital admission

Prior to urgent hospital transfer administer:

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| Benzylpenicillin OR Amoxicillin | 1.2g IV/IM STAT 1g PO STAT | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid in penicillin allergy Urgent hospital admission only |
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CRB-65 Score 3 or more :

Treatment in a nursing home/ residential care facility if not for hospital admission

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| 1st line option Co-amoxiclav | 625mg every 8 hours | 5 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid in penicillin allergy. Liquid co-amoxiclav available as: Augmentin Paediatric[®] suspension 125mg/31.25mg/5ml Dose 625mg = 20ml suspension (Augmentin Duo[®] Suspension not recommended in adults) |
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| | | | <p>Consider adding Clarithromycin 500mg every 12 hours if concern of atypical pathogen (e.g. mycoplasma, legionella).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Macrolide warning and check drug interactions. • Clarithromycin liquid available as: 250mg/5ml or 125mg/5ml |
| <p>2nd line option</p> <p>Levofloxacin (1st line in penicillin allergy)</p> | <p>500mg every 12 or 24 hours depending on severity</p> | <p>5 days</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If dysphagia is a concern, tablets will not disperse in water and crushing tablets is not recommended. Liquid preparation not available. Contact microbiologist for advice. May need to consider IV therapy / hospital admission. • Consider Fluoroquinolone warning • Dose adjustment required in renal impairment • Check for drug interactions • Absorption is significantly impaired by antacids, iron/calcium/magnesium/zinc-containing products. • Increased risk of tendon damage with concomitant use of steroids. • Lowers seizure threshold and is contraindicated in epilepsy. |