

flavored ice pops may be tolerated better than solid foods or citrus juices.

Special emphasis is placed on correct administration of oral medication and completion of the course of antibiotic therapy (see [Administration of Medication](#), and [Compliance, Chapter 20](#)). If an injection of penicillin is required, it must be administered deep into a large muscle mass (e.g., vastus lateralis or ventrogluteal muscle). To prevent pain, application of a topical anesthetic cream, such as LMX4 (4% lidocaine) or eutectic mixture of local anesthetics (EMLA; lidocaine and prilocaine) over the injection site before the injection is helpful (see [Administration of Medication: Intramuscular Administration, Chapter 20](#)). The injection site may be tender for 1 to 2 days.

Children are considered infectious to others at the onset of symptoms and up to 24 hours after initiation of antibiotic therapy, but they should not return to school or daycare until they have been taking antibiotics for a full 24-hour period. Nurses should remind the children to discard their toothbrushes and replace them with new ones after they have been taking antibiotics for 24 hours. Orthodontic appliances should be washed and disinfected thoroughly because they may harbor the organisms. Parents are cautioned to prevent other household members, especially if immunocompromised, from having close contact with the sick child and avoid sharing towels, drinking or eating items.

If the child continues to have a high fever that does not respond to antipyretics, has an extremely sore throat, refuses liquids, and appears toxic 24 to 48 hours after starting antibiotics, further evaluation by the practitioner is recommended.

Drug Alert

Never administer penicillin G procaine or penicillin G benzathine suspensions intravenously (they may cause embolism or toxic reaction with ensuing death in minutes). Instead, administer these medications deep into the muscle tissue to decrease localized reactions and pain.

Tonsillitis

The tonsils are masses of lymphoid tissue located in the pharyngeal