

# benzylpenicillin

## 600mg injection

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**Note**

This guideline provides advice of a general nature. This statewide guideline has been prepared to promote and facilitate standardisation and consistency of practice, using a multidisciplinary approach. The guideline is based on a review of published evidence and expert opinion.

Information in this statewide guideline is current at the time of publication.

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Health practitioners in the South Australian public health sector are expected to review specific details of each patient and professionally assess the applicability of the relevant guideline to that clinical situation.

If for good clinical reasons, a decision is made to depart from the guideline, the responsible clinician must document in the patient's medical record, the decision made, by whom, and detailed reasons for the departure from the guideline.

This statewide guideline does not address all the elements of clinical practice and assumes that the individual clinicians are responsible for discussing care with consumers in an environment that is culturally appropriate and which enables respectful confidential discussion. This includes:

- The use of interpreter services where necessary,
- Advising consumers of their choice and ensuring informed consent is obtained,
- Providing care within scope of practice, meeting all legislative requirements and maintaining standards of professional conduct, and
- Documenting all care in accordance with mandatory and local requirements

**Synonyms**

Penicillin

**Dose and Indications**

600mg is equivalent to 1 million units

**Infection due to susceptible organisms****Empiric treatment of Group B Streptococcus****Intravenous, Intramuscular**

60mg/kg/dose

| Corrected Age (weeks)<br>[Gestational Age PLUS Postnatal Age] | Postnatal age (days) | Frequency (hours) |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| All   | ≤7                   | every 12 hours    |
|   | >7                   | every 8 hours     |

Length of treatment should be guided by pathology and clinical picture; however in proven sepsis treatment should continue for a minimum of 7 days. For meningitis, continue treatment for 14 days.

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South Australian Maternal & Neonatal Clinical Network  
08/11/2012  
South Australian Neonatal Medication Guidelines Workgroup at:  
NeoMed@health.sa.gov.au

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### Preparation and Administration

#### Intravenous

| Vial Strength (mg) | Volume of Water for Injection to add (mL) | Final Concentration of benzylpenicillin (mg/mL) |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 600mg              | 5.6mL                                     | 100mg/mL  |

| Dose   | 30mg  | 60mg  | 90mg  | 120mg | 150mg | 180mg |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Volume | 0.3mL | 0.6mL | 0.9mL | 1.2mL | 1.5mL | 1.8mL |

Benzylpenicillin may be administered undiluted or diluted to a suitable volume with compatible fluid for ease of intravenous administration.

Administer as a push over at least 3 minutes

Discard remaining solution

#### Intramuscular

| Vial Strength (mg) | Volume of Water for Injection to add (mL) | Final Concentration of benzylpenicillin (mg/mL) |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 600mg              | 1.6mL                                     | 300mg/mL  |

| Dose   | 30mg  | 60mg  | 90mg  | 120mg | 150mg | 180mg |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Volume | 0.1mL | 0.2mL | 0.3mL | 0.4mL | 0.5mL | 0.6mL |

Discard remaining solution

### Compatible Fluids

Glucose 5%, sodium chloride 0.9%

### Adverse Effects

#### Common

Diarrhoea

#### Infrequent

Vomiting, [Clostridium difficile-associated disease](#)

#### Rare

Black tongue, electrolyte disturbances, neurotoxicity, bleeding, blood dyscrasias

Anaphylactic shock is not commonly seen in the neonates.

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### Practice Points

- > Seizures have occurred in adults where high dose benzylpenicillin is administered rapidly: it is administered by slow infusion (i.e. over 30 minutes) in adults to overcome this. Seizures associated with rapid administration of benzylpenicillin have not been reported in neonates.

### Version control and change history

**PDS reference:** OCE use only

| Version | Date from     | Date to | Amendment        |
|---------|---------------|---------|------------------|
| 1.0     | November 2012 | current | Original version |
|         |               |         |                  |
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