

Amoxicillin and Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid Therapeutic Alternatives in Pediatrics

Due to shortages in oral liquid formulations of amoxicillin and amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, alternative treatment strategies may be required. Availability in community pharmacies will vary, but if unavailable some alternative formulations and antibiotics are provided below.

Table 1. For “Regular Dose” Amoxicillin, if suspension unavailable- 40-75 mg/kg/day				
Weight	Suggested dosage using capsules*		Dose range (mg/kg/day)	
< 8.5 kg	Use alternative antibiotics listed here: Managing critical drug shortages in clinical practice Canadian Paediatric Society (cps.ca)			
8.5-17 kg	250 mg TID		44-88	
17 kg and up	500 mg TID		<= 88	
Table 2. For “High Dose” Amoxicillin, if suspension unavailable- 80-100 mg/kg/day				
< 7.5 kg	Use alternative antibiotics listed here: Managing critical drug shortages in clinical practice Canadian Paediatric Society (cps.ca)			
7.6-9 kg	250 mg TID		83-100	
9.1-15 kg	500 mg BID		67-109	
15.1-20 kg	500 mg TID		75- 100	
20.1-28 kg	750 mg TID		80-107	
28.1 kg and up	1000 mg TID		<= 107	
Table 3. For “Regular Dose” Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid- 40-75 mg/kg/day amoxicillin and 5-12 mg/kg/day clavulanic acid e.g. UTI				
	875/125 amox-clav tablet (¼ tab= 219 mg amox, 31.25 mg clav)	500/125 amox-clav tablet (¼ tab= 125 mg amox, 31.25 mg clav)	Dose range (mg/kg/day)	
			Amoxicillin	Clavulanic acid
Under 7.5 kg	Use alternative antibiotics listed here: Managing critical drug shortages in clinical practice Canadian Paediatric Society (cps.ca)			
7.5-10 kg		¼ tab TID	37.5-50	9.5-12.5
10.1-16 kg	¼ tab TID		43-65	5.8-9.5
16.1-18 kg		½ tab TID	41-46	10.4-11.6
18.1-32 kg	½ tab TID		41-73	5.8-10.3
32 kg and up		1 tab TID	Up to 46	Up to 11.7

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Table 4. For “High Dose” Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid- 90 mg/kg/day amoxicillin and 5-12 mg/kg/day clavulanic acid e.g. High risk acute otitis media (AOM) or failure of 1 st line therapy for AOM Note: must combine amoxicillin and amoxicillin-clavulanic acid products				
	Using 875/125 amox-clav tablet (¼ tab= 219 mg amox, 31.25 mg clav)	Using 500/125 amox-clav tablet (¼ tab= 125 mg amox, 31.25 mg clav)	Dose range (mg/kg/day)	
			Amoxicillin	Clavulanic acid
Below 10kg	Use alternative antibiotics listed here: Managing critical drug shortages in clinical practice Canadian Paediatric Society (cps.ca)			
10-12.5kg	¼ tab BID + 23mg/kg/dose BID of amox liquid	¼ tab BID + 33mg/kg/dose BID of amox liquid	81-90	5-6
12.6-15kg	¼ tab TID + 15mg/kg/dose TID of amox liquid	¼ tab TID + 22mg/kg/dose TID of amox liquid	89-97	6-7.5
15.1-17.5kg	½ tab BID + 16mg/kg/dose BID of amox liquid	½ tab BID + 28mg/kg/dose BID of amox liquid	82-90	7-8.2
17.6-22.5kg	½ tab BID + 20mg/kg/dose BID of amox liquid	½ tab BID + 31mg/kg/dose BID of amox liquid	79-90	5.6-7
Above 22.5 kg	1 tab BID		50- 77.4	7- 11

* Capsules can be opened and mixed with a small amount (2-3 tbsp) of palatable food/drink

If the above options are not available or suitable, alternative antibiotic options are listed here: [Managing critical drug shortages in clinical practice | Canadian Paediatric Society \(cps.ca\)](#) *

*Notes:

1. Avoid use of cephalixin for UTIs in febrile children.
2. Treat bacterial sinusitis as for acute otitis media.

All antibiotic oral suspension recommendations are subject to availability at the time; multiple agents are in shortage situations.