

Antimicrobial Management Group

Information for all NHS Tayside staff

QR code for desktop version of NHS
Tayside: Antimicrobial Prescribing
Toolkit on Right Decision Service



November 2024

GENTAMICIN KEY MESSAGES

1 CHANGE TO MAXIMUM DURATION OF GENTAMICIN

Some patients may be suitable for up to 96 hours of treatment dose gentamicin

- ONLY if IV therapy is definitely still required the duration of gentamicin can now be extended up to 96 hours for patients with eGFR/CrCl >30ml/min - Check the [guidance](#). This matches practice in other hospitals in Scotland and the change will help to reduce aztreonam use and conserve stocks.
- Gentamicin level must be taken 6 to 14 hours after the start of the first infusion (as per current practice)
 - If the level falls in the 24 hour dosing section of the nomogram then up to a total of 4 doses can be given
 - If the level falls in the 36 hour dosing section of the nomogram then up to a total of 2 doses can be given
 - If the level falls in the 48 hour dosing section of the nomogram then up to a total of 2 doses can be given
- Usually a further level does not need to be taken but renal function must be checked daily to ensure it is stable – seek advice if renal function changes

2 UPDATED GENTAMICIN CHARTS

NHS Tayside gentamicin charts have reverted back to the original version and have space for up to 4 doses to be prescribed

- Updated charts are now in circulation and can be ordered via PECOS with code THB1078
- Previous versions of gentamicin charts should be removed from use when stock of updated charts are available in the clinical area

3 **GENTAMICIN CALCULATOR** – DO NOT GOOGLE ‘gentamicin calculator’ or ‘right decision gentamicin calculator’ – HIGH RISK OF picking the wrong calculator which does not work with local guidance or charts. NHS Tayside gentamicin calculator should only be accessed via the [Antimicrobial Website homepage](#) or QR code above or Right Decision Service app and ensure ‘Antimicrobial Prescribing: NHS Tayside’ toolkit is selected.

4 IVOST AND BIOAVAILABILITY OF ORAL ANTIMICROBIALS

Many patients don’t need IV antibiotics for more than 24 to 48 hours

- REVIEW PATIENT DAILY FOR IV TO ORAL SWITCH – check the [guidance](#)
- Remember the bug doesn’t know how the drug gets to it!
- NHS Tayside is a very high user of IV antimicrobials compared to other Boards in Scotland
- Reducing IV antimicrobial use has many [BENEFITS](#) for patients and staff
- Many of the first line antimicrobials we use in NHS Tayside have very good bioavailability – check the [guidance](#)



- ♦ Gentamicin full guidance available [here](#)
- ♦ Additional advice with examples available for [prescribers](#) and [nursing staff](#) on antimicrobial website home page
- ♦ TURAS module link [here](#)