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| **PNEUMOCYSTIS PNEUMONIA (PCP)** *(Pneumocystis jiroveci)* | Mild to Moderate PaO$_2$ >9.3kpa on room air | **1ST LINE**  
Co-trimoxazole oral  
1920mg TDS  
or  
90mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses (rounded to nearest 480mg)  
Duration: 21 days | *Check G6PD prior to prescribing dapsone or primaquine but do not delay treatment.* | For prophylaxis for HIV patients [click here](#) | Primaquine is not licensed in the UK but can be prescribed on a named patient basis – contact pharmacist to order. |
| | | **2ND LINE**  
Option1:  
Clindamycin oral  
600mg tds+  
+ Primaquine* oral  
30mg OD  
Option2:  
Dapsone 100mg oral daily + Trimethoprim oral 20mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses rounded to nearest 50mg  
Option3:  
Atovaquone liquid oral  
750mg BD, with food (preferably high fat)  
Duration: 21 days | | Atovaquone is only available as a liquid. |
| | | | | Both clindamycin and trimethoprim are off label for treatment of PCP. |
| | Severe PaO$_2$ ≤9.3kpa on room air | **1ST LINE**  
Co-trimoxazole IV** infusion 120mg/kg/day for 3 days then reduce to IV/PO 90mg/kg/day for 18 days. The total daily dose may be divided in 3-4 doses. Total duration 21 days  
+ steroids (see further information box)  
**Oral co-trimoxazole has very good bioavailability. Review IV daily and switch to oral at same dose when appropriate after clinical improvement to complete course | *Check G6PD prior to prescribing dapsone or primaquine but do not delay treatment.* | For prophylaxis for HIV patients [click here](#) | **Pentamidine should be made in Pharmacy Aseptic Unit** |
| | | | | For all other patients refer to patient speciality and reason for immunosuppression or seek advice from ID/Microbiology. |
| | | **2ND LINE**  
Option1:  
Clindamycin IV infusion  
600 QDS or 900mg TDS  
+ Primaquine* oral  
30mg OD  
Option2:  
**Pentamidine isetionate** IV infusion  
4mg/kg OD in 250ml 5% glucose over at least 60 mins. Reduce dose to 3mg/kg od if toxicity  
Caution: hypotension, hypoglycaemia  
Duration: 21 days | | |
| | | | | |

Reference: Dose recommended in BNF 2023  
US HIV Guidelines 2023  
BHIVA OI Guidelines 2011  
EACS Guidelines 2022

Adapted from NHS Tayside Guidelines for Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in HIV patients. Approved: July 2012  
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