

MANAGEMENT OF PNEUMONIA IN ADULTS

Always review microbiology results to guide and target antimicrobial therapy

COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA (inpatients) (Patients in community setting see [Primary Care Guidance](#))

Symptoms within first 48 hours of hospital admission (including patients admitted from care home setting) or after 48 hours post hospital discharge.

Common organisms – see [MicroGuidance](#)

CXR, HIV test and calculate CURB65 score at initial presentation (Score 1 for each):

- **CONFUSION:** NEW (MSQ \leq 8/10)
- **UREA:** >7 mmol/l (if available)
- **RESPIRATORY RATE:** \geq 30/minute
- **BP:** <90 mmHg systolic \leq 60mmHg diastolic
- **65** – Age \geq 65 years

NON SEVERE - CURB65 score 0-2
Additional test - send swab for resp PCR

AMOXICILLIN oral 1g TDS

OR IN [TRUE PENICILLIN ALLERGY](#)
[DOXYCYCLINE*](#)
200mg OD DAY 1
100mg OD DAY 2-5

IF NBM (ASSESS DAILY FOR ORAL/NG ACCESS):
IV AMOXICILLIN 1G TDS OR
IV CLARITHROMYCIN* 500MG BD

DURATION: 5 DAYS (TOTAL IV/ORAL) INCLUDING IN SEVERE CAP IF PATIENT CLINICALLY STABLE. ADD STOP DATE TO HEPMA FOR ORAL ANTIBIOTICS.

If not improving: repeat CXR (empyema), ensure HIV test has been done, sputum culture consider investigations for mycobacteria spp including TB. Discuss with Respiratory team.

SEVERE - CURB65 score 3-5
Additional tests – blood cultures, sputum culture, swab for respiratory PCR, urinary legionella PCR and antigen tests

CO-AMOXICLAV IV 1.2g TDS +
[DOXYCYCLINE*](#) oral 100mg BD (NBM: REPLACE DOXYCYCLINE WITH IV CLARITHROMYCIN 500mg BD)

OR IN [TRUE PENICILLIN ALLERGY](#)
LEVOFLOXACIN* IV 500mg BD MONOTHERAPY (CONSIDER [QUINOLONE WARNINGS](#))

REVIEW DAILY FOR [IVOST](#)
STEP DOWN ALL PATIENTS TO [DOXYCYCLINE*](#) monotherapy 100mg BD (ALTERNATIVE CO-TRIMOXAZOLE 960mg BD)

HOSPITAL ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA (including community hospitals)

Symptoms start after >48 hours in hospital or up to 48 hours after hospital discharge. Diagnosis of HAP is difficult and often over diagnosed.

Common organisms – see [MicroGuidance](#)
Previous ICU admission or history of MRSA seek advice

NON SEVERE

AMOXICILLIN oral 1g TDS

OR

[DOXYCYCLINE*](#) oral 200mg OD DAY 1
100mg OD DAY 2-5

If NBM (assess daily for oral/NG access):
IV amoxicillin 1g tds or
IV clarithromycin* 500mg bd

DURATION: 5 DAYS (TOTAL IV/ORAL) INCLUDING IN SEVERE HAP IF PATIENT CLINICALLY STABLE. ADD STOP DATE TO HEPMA FOR ORAL ANTIBIOTICS.

If not improving: senior review and consider other causes of clinical deterioration, including non bacterial.

SEVERE

AMOXICILLIN IV 1g TDS + [GENTAMICIN IV](#)

OR IN [TRUE PENICILLIN ALLERGY](#)
[CO-TRIMOXAZOLE IV/ORAL](#) 960mg BD + [GENTAMICIN IV](#)

REVIEW DAILY FOR [IVOST](#). STEP DOWN ALL PATIENTS TO [CO-TRIMOXAZOLE](#) 960mg BD

ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA

Aspiration pneumonitis is a chemical injury that does not require antimicrobial treatment. Reserve antibiotics for patients who fail to improve within 48 hours post aspiration.

Antimicrobial cover – routine anaerobic cover is **NOT** required

NON SEVERE

AMOXICILLIN oral 1g TDS

OR

[DOXYCYCLINE*](#) 200mg OD DAY 1
100mg OD DAY 2-5

If NBM (assess daily for oral/NG access):
IV amoxicillin 1g tds or
IV clarithromycin* 500mg bd

DURATION: 5 DAYS (TOTAL IV/ORAL) INCLUDING IN SEVERE ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA IF PATIENT CLINICALLY STABLE. ADD STOP DATE TO HEPMA FOR ORAL ANTIBIOTICS.

If not improving: senior review and consider other causes of clinical deterioration, including non bacterial.

SEVERE

AMOXICILLIN IV 1g TDS + [GENTAMICIN IV](#)

OR IN [TRUE PENICILLIN ALLERGY](#)
[CO-TRIMOXAZOLE IV/ORAL](#) 960mg BD + [GENTAMICIN IV](#)

REVIEW DAILY FOR [IVOST](#). STEP DOWN ALL PATIENTS TO [CO-TRIMOXAZOLE](#) 960mg BD

NEUTROPENIA ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA

Antimicrobial cover – additional gram negative cover including Pseudomonas

Refer to [neutropenic sepsis guidance](#)

PNEUMOCYSTIS PNEUMONIA (PCP/PJP)

Refer to separate [guidance](#)

PNEUMONIA IN ICU PATIENTS:

Refer to [ICU guidance](#)

LEGIONELLA PNEUMONIA

LEVOFLOXACIN* IV/oral 500mg BD (7-10 days) (CONSIDER [QUINOLONE WARNINGS](#))

OR
CLARITHROMYCIN* IV/oral 500mg BD (7-10 days)

REVIEW DAILY FOR [IVOST](#)

Extended course may be required on specialist advice e.g. immunocompromised, very severe disease.

NOTES: ALL DOSES ASSUME NORMAL RENAL AND HEPATIC FUNCTION IN NON PREGNANT ADULTS

***CHECK FOR INTERACTIONS/SPECIFIC CAUTIONS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BELOW:**

- [DOXYCYCLINE](#)/LEVOFLOXACIN oral – absorption significantly reduced (up to 90% for doxycycline and up to 40% for levofloxacin) when administered with oral medicines containing Fe/Ca/Mg/Al/Zn (including antacids e.g. Peptac) – if possible hold interacting medicine or space as far apart as possible
- [LEVOFLOXACIN IV/oral](#) – review significant [quinolone warnings](#) issued by MHRA, consider risk of prolonged QT interval and ensure [PIL](#) given to patient
- [CLARITHROMYCIN IV/oral](#) – consider risk of prolonged QT interval and check for drug interactions