

NEONATAL MEDICATION PROTOCOLS

DRUG:	MEROPENEM			
PRESENTATION:	Vial: 500 mg			
ALERTS & RESTRICTIONS:	Antimicrobial Restriction: Category B ORANGE Monitored			
ACTION & INDICATION:	<p>A carbapenem antibiotic. Acts by interfering with bacterial cell wall synthesis It is active against a broad spectrum of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria.</p> <p>Meropenem is indicated in the treatment of severe infections including intra-abdominal infections, meningitis and other infections where multi-resistant infections are suspected or proven.</p>			
DOSE:	<u>Intra-abdominal and NON-CNS infections:</u>			
	Corrected Gestational Age	Postnatal age	Dose	Frequency
	<32 weeks	< 14 days	20mg/kg	12 hourly
	<32 weeks	≥ 14 days	20mg/kg	8 hourly
	≥ 32 weeks	< 14 days	20mg/kg	8 hourly
	≥ 32 weeks	≥ 14 days	30mg/kg	8 hourly
	<u>Meningitis</u>			
	Corrected Gestational Age	Postnatal age	Dose	Frequency
	<32 weeks	< 14 days	40mg/kg	12 hourly
	<32 weeks	≥ 14 days	40mg/kg	8 hourly
≥ 32 weeks	All ages	40mg/kg	8 hourly	
PREPARATION:	<p>IV: Use solution prepared in Pharmacy if available. If premade solution is not available, use the following process to prepare a 50mg/mL OR 25mg/mL solution.</p> <p>Diluents: Water for Injections, 0.9% Sodium chloride, 5% and 10% Glucose. Add 9.6mL diluent to vial = 50 mg/mL If more dilute solution required add 19.6mL diluent to vial = 25mg/mL</p>			
ADMINISTRATION:	IV Infusion: Infuse over 30 minutes.			
ADVERSE EFFECTS:	<p>Diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, thrombophlebitis Rash, pruritis, urticaria Eosinophilia, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, abnormal liver function tests, seizures</p>			
COMMENTS:	<p>Discard reconstituted solution immediately after use.</p> <p>Cross reactivity may occur in patients with a history or hypersensitivity reactions to penicillins, carbapenems or cephalosporins.</p>			
REFERENCES:	<p>Paediatric Pharmacopoeia 13th Ed Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Neofax 2014, SHPA Injectable Drugs Handbook – 6th Edition</p>			