

DRUG:	MEROPENEM									
PRESENTATION:	Vial: 500 mg									
ACTION & INDICATION:	A carbapenem antibiotic, which is stable to human dehydropeptidase-1. It acts by interfering with bacterial cell wall synthesis and is used for the treatment of severe infections. It is active against a broad spectrum of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria.									
DOSE:	<table> <tr> <td>< 7 days</td> <td>20 mg/kg/dose</td> <td>12 hourly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>≥ 7 days</td> <td>20 mg/kg/dose</td> <td>8 hourly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meningitis:</td> <td>40mg/kg/dose</td> <td>8 hourly</td> </tr> </table>	< 7 days	20 mg/kg/dose	12 hourly	≥ 7 days	20 mg/kg/dose	8 hourly	Meningitis:	40mg/kg/dose	8 hourly
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Meningitis:	40mg/kg/dose	8 hourly								
PREPARATION:	<p>Use solution prepared in Pharmacy if available.</p> <p>Diluents: Water for Injections, 0.9% Sodium chloride, Glucose solutions.</p> <p>Add 9.56mL diluent to vial: = 50 mg/mL</p> <p>If more dilute solution required add 19.6mL diluent to vial: = 25mg/mL</p>									
ADMINISTRATION:	Intravenous infusion: Infuse over 30 minutes.									
ADVERSE EFFECTS:	<p>Thrombophlebitis</p> <p>Rash, pruritis, urticaria</p> <p>Eosinophilia, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia</p>									
COMMENTS:	<p>Discard reconstituted solution immediately after use</p> <p>Discussion with Clinical Microbiologist is mandatory for suspected/proven meningitis therapy.</p>									
REFERENCES:	<p>Paediatric Pharmacopoeia 13th Ed Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne</p> <p>Neofax 2008</p>									
DATE:	January 2011									