



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

**ACICLOVIR**

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)




**Antimicrobial Restriction – Monitored (IV)**

IV therapy beyond 3 days to be discussed with ID physician or Clinical microbiologist

**Antimicrobial Restriction – Unrestricted (Oral/Topical)**

<p><b>Presentation</b></p>	<p><b>Vial:</b> 250mg/10mL <b>Tablet:</b> 200mg, 800mg <b>Cream:</b> 5% or 50mg/g (2g)</p>
<p><b>Dose</b></p>	<p><b><u>Genital Herpes Simplex Virus</u></b></p> <p><b>Primary episode</b> <b>Oral:</b> 400mg every 8 hours for 5 days <b>IV (severe disease):</b> 5 - 10mg/kg/dose IV every 8 hours</p> <p><b>Recurrent episode</b> <b>Oral:</b> 800mg every 8 hours for 2 days <b>OR</b> 400mg every 8 hours for 5 days</p> <p><b>Prophylaxis from 36 weeks pregnancy</b> <b>Oral:</b> 400mg every 8 hours</p> <p><b><u>Oral mucocutaneous infection (cold sores)</u></b> <b>Topical:</b> Apply cream topically 5 times daily for 5 days</p> <p><b><u>Chicken Pox</u></b> <b>Oral:</b> 800mg 5 times daily for 7 days <b>IV:</b> 10mg/kg/dose every 8 hours for 7-10 days</p>

	<p><b><u>Shingles</u></b></p> <p><b>Oral:</b> 800mg 5 times daily for 7 days</p>
<b>Administration</b>	<p><b><u>IV Infusion</u></b></p> <p><b>Step 1 Dilution:</b> Dilute 250mg in at least 50mL of sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%. Final concentration should not exceed 5mg/mL.</p> <p><b>Step 2 Administration:</b> Infuse over at least 1 hour (60 mins)</p> <p><b><u>Oral</u></b></p> <p>Tablet may be dispersed in at least 50mL water.</p>
<b>Pregnancy</b>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:</b> Considered safe to use</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:</b> Considered safe to use</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:</b> Considered safe to use</p>
<b>Breastfeeding</b>	Safe to use
<b>Monitoring</b>	Ensure adequate hydration
<b>Clinical Guidelines and Policies</b>	<p>KEMH Clinical Guideline: O&amp;G: Sexually Transmitted Infections: Herpes Simplex</p> <p>KEMH Pharmacy Guideline: Medication Administration</p> <p>KEMH Pharmacy Guideline: Reconstitution and Administration of Intravenous Medications (Adults)</p>
<b>References</b>	<p>Therapeutic Guidelines. Herpes zoster: antiviral therapy. In: eTG complete [Internet]. West Melbourne (Victoria): Therapeutic Guidelines; 2017 [cited 2017 May 08]. Available from: <a href="https://tgldcdp.tg.org.au">https://tgldcdp.tg.org.au</a></p> <p>Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Aciclovir. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2017 [cited 2017 May 08]. Available from: <a href="http://aidh.hcn.com.au">http://aidh.hcn.com.au</a></p> <p>Australian Medicines Handbook. Aciclovir. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2017 [cited 2017 May 08]. Available from: <a href="https://amhonline.amh.net.au/">https://amhonline.amh.net.au/</a></p> <p>The Royal Women's Hospital. Aciclovir. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2016 [cited 2017 Mar 23]. Available from: <a href="https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/">https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/</a></p>

Keywords:	Aciclovir, acyclovir, herpes, herpes simplex, varicella, chickenpox, shingles		
Publishing:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intranet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet		
Document owner:	Chief Pharmacist		
Author / Reviewer:	Pharmacy Department		
Date first issued:	July 2015	Version:	3.0
Last reviewed:	May 2018, amended Oct 2018	Next review date:	March 2021
Endorsed by:	Medicines and Therapeutics Committee	Date:	Oct 2018
Standards Applicable:	NSQHS Standards: 1  Governance, 3  Infection Control, 4  Medication Safety		
<p><b>Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled.</b></p> <p><b>Access the current version from the WNHS website.</b></p> <p><b>For any enquiries relating to this guideline, please email <a href="mailto:KEMH.PharmacyAdmin@health.wa.gov.au">KEMH.PharmacyAdmin@health.wa.gov.au</a></b></p>			

© Department of Health Western Australia 2018