

# CEFALEXIN

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<b>Formulary: Unrestricted</b>	
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Powder for oral suspension: 250 mg/5 mL = 50 mg/mL</b>
<b>Classification</b>	First generation cephalosporin antibiotic.
<b>Indication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treatment of mild infections due to susceptible organisms.</li> <li>Prophylaxis of urinary tract infection in at risk patients.</li> </ul>
<b>Special Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use with caution in patients with hypersensitivity or mild adverse reactions to penicillins or carbapenems as cross-reactivity can occur (e.g. rash).</li> <li>Cefalexin may cause a false positive Coombs test.</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	Monitor renal, hepatic and full blood count with prolonged use.
<b>Adverse Effects</b>	<b>Common or infrequent:</b> Diarrhoea, vomiting, rash, abdominal pain.
	<b>Rare:</b> Immunologic or anaphylactic reactions, neurotoxicity, blood dyscrasias, cholestatic hepatitis, antibiotic associated colitis, renal impairment.
<b>Storage &amp; Stability</b>	<b>Powder for reconstitution:</b> Store at room temperature, below 25°C. Protect from light and moisture.
	<b>Reconstituted suspension:</b> Refrigerate at 2 to 8°C, do not freeze <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discard 14 days after reconstitution.</li> </ul>

ORAL

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Powder for oral suspension: 250 mg/5 mL = 50 mg/mL</b>		
<b>Dosage</b>	<b>Treatment of mild infections due to susceptible organisms:</b>		
	<b>Postnatal Age</b>	<b>Dose</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
	Less than 7 days	25 mg/kg/dose	Every 12 hours
	7 to 21 days	25 mg/kg/dose	Every 8 hours
	Greater than 21 days	25 mg/kg/dose	Every 6 hours
	<i>Do not exceed 125 mg per dose.</i>		
<b>Dose Adjustment</b>	<b>Prophylaxis of urinary tract infections:</b>		
	12.5 mg/kg once daily at night.		
<b>Dose Adjustment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No dosing guidelines are published for preterm neonates.</li><li><b>Renal impairment:</b> Consider increasing dosing interval in significant renal impairment.</li></ul>		

	<p><i>Reconstitution steps differ between brands, refer to product packaging for reconstitution instructions.</i></p> <p><b>Preparation</b></p> <p><b>For Cefalexin Sandoz® 250 mg/5 mL suspension:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invert bottle and tap to loosen granules.</li> <li>2. Add 63mL of sterile water to the bottle.</li> <li>3. Close and shake well.</li> </ol>	
	<p><b>Administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shake well before each use.</li> <li>• Draw prescribed dose into oral/enteral syringe.</li> <li>• Can be given Oral/OGT/NGT.</li> <li>• May be given anytime in relation to feeds.</li> </ul>	

## Related Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

### Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[CAHS Neonatology – Medication Administration Guideline](#)

[WNHS Cold Chain Management for Medications and Vaccines](#)

[CAHS Medication Refrigerators and Freezers](#)

## References

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