

# **Your baby's oral antibiotic treatment**

## **Information for parents and carers**

This information sheet explains how to give oral antibiotics to your baby. It provides advice on when and how to seek help if they have an allergic reaction or you have any other concerns. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the team caring for your baby.

Your baby is being treated with antibiotics for a suspected infection. They are now well enough to continue treatment at home with oral antibiotics (amoxicillin). It is essential that you complete the full course of antibiotics as prescribed to complete your baby's treatment.

### **How to store oral amoxicillin**

Amoxicillin should be kept in the fridge, out of reach of children.

### **How to give oral amoxicillin to your baby**

#### **1. Prepare the dose**

- Shake the bottle.
- Open the bottle and insert the oral syringe provided.
- Pull back on the plunger until the medicine reaches the volume needed (the volume needed is written on the label attached to the medicine bottle).

#### **2. Give your baby the medicine**

- Place the tip of the syringe inside your baby's mouth between their gums and the inside of their cheek.
- Slowly and gently push the plunger to release the medicine small amounts at a time.
- Allow your baby time to swallow each volume before giving more of the medicine.

#### **3. Clean the syringe**

- After the whole dose is given, take the syringe apart and wash the sections in warm soapy water.
- Leave the syringe to dry then put it back together ready for the next dose.

### **When to give oral amoxicillin to your baby**

It can be helpful to give the medicine before a feed when your baby is slightly hungry. It can be given before, during or after a breast or bottle feed, whatever works best for you and your baby.

If you are feeding your baby using a bottle, you can alternatively mix the dose of medicine with 10ml of your baby's milk and give this before the rest of their feed.

## What to do if your baby is sick (vomits) after taking the medicine

Small milky vomits are normal and your baby will still have received enough of the medicine for effective treatment.

If your baby has a large vomit within 30 minutes of giving the medicine, repeat the full dose of antibiotic.

If your baby has a large vomit more than 30 minutes after giving the medicine, wait until the next dose is due.

## Allergic reactions

If you notice any of the following symptoms, seek medical attention immediately:

- an urticarial rash (raised bumps or welts on the skin, commonly known as hives – look pink or red when affecting someone with white skin, the colour of the rash can be harder to see on brown and black skin)
- swelling of your baby's face, lips or tongue
- difficulty breathing (laboured or fast breathing, or noisy or wheezy breathing)

## When to seek help

- If your baby shows signs of an allergic reaction, go to A&E immediately.
- If your baby is unable to take the oral antibiotics, come back to the hospital via A&E to complete the treatment with IV antibiotics. Please return as soon as possible so that your baby does not miss any doses of their treatment.
- If you are worried your baby is not well or have any other urgent issues, please visit A&E straight away. Signs they are not well may include:
  - sleepiness
  - not waking for feeds or not taking their feeds
  - laboured or fast breathing
  - being floppy or less alert than usual
  - having a high or low temperature

Do not hesitate to seek help if you feel something is wrong.

## Further advice

For non-urgent concerns you can contact the Transitional Care Nurse on the postnatal ward on 020 3299 3402 for King's College Hospital site and on 0168 9864957 for the Princess Royal University Hospital site.

## Feedback

We appreciate your feedback about your baby's treatment, so we can continue to improve the service. Please scan the relevant QR code below to complete a quick feedback survey.



King's College  
Hospital service user



Princess Royal University  
Hospital service user

## **MyChart**

Our MyChart app and website lets you securely access parts of your health record with us, giving you more control over your care. To sign up or for help, call us on 020 3299 4618 or email [kings.mychart@nhs.net](mailto:kings.mychart@nhs.net). Visit [www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart](http://www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart) to find out more.

## **Sharing your information**

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has partnered with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust through the King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas' hospitals. King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trusts share an electronic patient record system, which means information about your health record can be accessed safely and securely by health and care staff at both Trusts. For more information visit [www.kch.nhs.uk](http://www.kch.nhs.uk).

## **Care provided by students**

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

## **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

Tel: 020 3299 4618

Email: [kings.pals@nhs.net](mailto:kings.pals@nhs.net)

**If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email [kings.access@nhs.net](mailto:kings.access@nhs.net)**