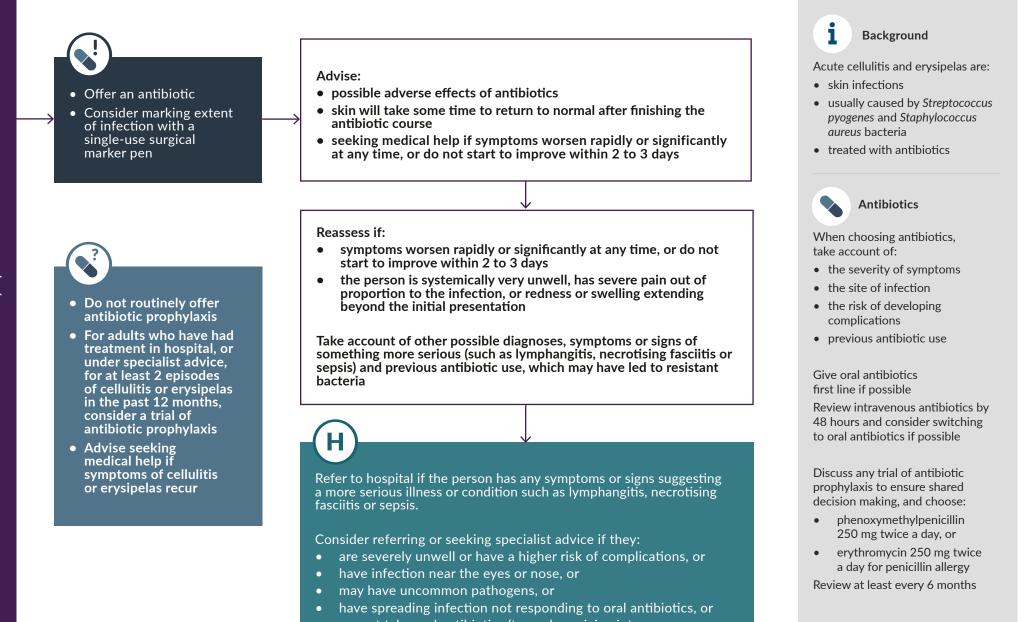
Cellulitis and erysipelas: antimicrobial prescribing



NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

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• cannot take oral antibiotics (to explore giving intravenous antibiotics at home or in the community if appropriate)

When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

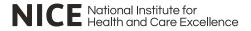
Cellulitis and erysipelas

Cellulitis and erysipelas: antimicrobial prescribing

Choice of antibiotic for treatment: adults aged 18 years and over

Antibiotic ¹	Dosage and course length ²
First choice oral antibiotic	
Flucloxacillin	500 mg four times a day for 7 days³
Alternative first choice oral antibiotics	for penicillin allergy or if flucloxacillin unsuitable
Clarithromycin	500 mg twice a day for 7 days³
Erythromycin (in pregnancy)	500 mg four times a day for 7 days³
First choice oral antibiotic if infection n	ear the eyes or nose⁴ (consider seeking specialist advice)
Co-amoxiclav	500/125 mg three times a day for 7 days ³
Alternative first choice oral antibiotics if infection near the eyes or nose ⁴ for penicillin allergy or if co-amoxiclav unsuitable (consider seeking specialist advice)	
Clarithromycin with	500 mg twice a day for 7 days³
Metronidazole	400 mg three times a day for 7 days³
First choice intravenous antibiotic (if ur	nable to take oral antibiotics or severely unwell) ^{5,6}
Flucloxacillin	500 mg to 2 g four times a day
Alternative choice intravenous antibiot Antibiotics may be combined if suscept	ics for penicillin allergy, if flucloxacillin unsuitable, or if infection near the eyes or nose⁴ (consider seeking specialist advice). ibility or sepsis a concern ⁶
Clarithromycin	500 mg twice a day
Co-amoxiclav (not if penicillin allergy)	1.2 g three times a day
Cefuroxime	750 mg to 1.5 g three or four times a day
Clindamycin	600 mg to 2.7 g daily in two to four divided doses, increased if necessary to 4.8 g daily (maximum per dose 1.2 g)
Gentamicin	Initially 5 to 7 mg/kg once a day, subsequent doses adjusted according to serum gentamicin concentration ⁷
Vancomycin	15 to 20 mg/kg two or three times a day (maximum 2 g per dose), adjusted according to serum vancomycin concentration ⁸
Linezolid (if vancomycin cannot be used; specialist advice only)	600 mg twice a day
intravenous antibiotics. ² Oral doses are for immediate release n ³ A longer course (up to a further 7 days symptoms at 7 days is not expected. ⁴ Infection around the eye or the nose (trisk of serious intracranial complication ⁵ Give oral medicines first line if the per- ⁶ Review intravenous antibiotics by 48 h ⁷ Therapeutic drug monitoring and asses ⁸ Therapeutic drug monitoring and asses) may be needed based on clinical assessment. However, skin does take some time to return to normal, and full resolution of the triangle from the bridge of the nose to the corners of the mouth, or immediately around the eyes) is of more concern because of

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Choice of antibiotic for treatment: children and young people under 18 years

Dosage and course length ²
1 month to 1 year, 62.5 mg to 125 mg four times a day for 7 days³; 2 to 9 years, 125 mg to 250 mg four times a day for 7 days³ 10 to 17 years, 250 mg to 500 mg four times a day for 7 days³
cillin allergy or if flucloxacillin unsuitable
1 month to 11 years: Under 8 kg, 7.5 mg/kg twice a day for 7 days ³ ; 8 to 11 kg, 62.5 mg twice a day for 7 days ³ ; 12 to 19 kg, 125 mg twice a day for 7 days ³ 20 to 29 kg, 187.5 mg twice a day for 7 days ³ ; 30 to 40 kg, 250 mg twice a day for 7 days ³ 12 to 17 years: 250 mg to 500 mg twice a day for 7 days ³
8 to 17 years, 250 mg to 500 mg four times a day for 7 days ³
eyes or nose⁴ (consider seeking specialist advice)
1 to 11 months, 0.25 ml/kg of 125/31 suspension three times a day for 7 days ³ (dose doubled in severe infection) 1 to 5 years, 0.25 ml/kg of 125/31 suspension or 5 ml of 125/31 suspension three times a day for 7 days ³ (dose doubled in severe infection) 6 to 11 years, 0.15 ml/kg of 250/62 suspension or 5 ml of 250/62 suspension three times a day for 7 days ³ (dose doubled in severe infection) 12 to 17 years, 250/125 mg or 500/125 mg three times a day for 7 days ³
on near the eyes or nose⁴ for penicillin allergy or if co-amoxiclav unsuitable (consider seeking specialist advice)
See doses above; for 7 days ³
1 month, 7.5 mg/kg twice a day for 7 days ³ ; 2 months to 11 years, 7.5 mg/kg three times a day (maximum per dose 400 mg) for 7 days ³ le 12 to 17 years, 400 mg three times a day for 7 days ³
take oral antibiotics or severely unwell) ^{5,6}
1 month to 12 years, 12.5 mg to 25 mg/kg four times a day (maximum 1 g four times a day)
enicillin allergy, if flucloxacillin unsuitable, or if infection near the eyes or nose ⁴ (consider seeking specialist advice). Antibiotics may be combined if
1 month to 11 years, 7.5 mg/kg twice a day (maximum 500 mg per dose); 12 to 17 years, 500 mg twice a day
1 to 2 months, 30 mg/kg twice a day; 3 months to 17 years, 30 mg/kg three times a day (maximum 1.2 g three times a day)
1 month to 17 years, 20 mg/kg three times a day (maximum 750 mg per dose), increased to 50 to 60 mg/kg three or four times a day (maximum 1.5 g per dose) for severe infections
1 month to 17 years, 3.75 to 6.25 mg/kg four times a day, increased if necessary to 10 mg/kg four times a day (maximum per dose 1.2 g); total daily dose may alternatively be given in three divided doses (maximum per dose 1.2 g)
Initially 7 mg/kg once a day, subsequent doses adjusted according to serum gentamicin concentration ⁷
1 month to 11 years, 10 to 15 mg/kg four times a day, adjusted according to serum vancomycin concentration ⁸ ; 12 to 17 years, 15 to 20 mg/kg two or three times a day (maximum 2 g per dose), adjusted according to serum vancomycin concentration ⁸
1 month to 11 years, 10 mg/kg three times a day (maximum 600 mg per dose); 12 to 17 years, 600 mg twice a day
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