

## ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT AND PROPHYLAXIS

**Note:** All three macrolides are now considered equally appropriate as first line agents for the treatment or prophylaxis of pertussis for persons 6 months of age and older. See specifics for infants < 6 months.

Drug	Infant (< 6 months of age)	Child (> 6 months of age)	Adult
<b>Azithromycin</b> [1,4] (3-day course not yet approved for treatment of pertussis)	<b>1-5 months:</b> 10 mg/kg/day orally daily for 5 days  <b>&lt;1 month of age:</b> same as above and is the <b>preferred</b> choice for infants <1 month old	10 mg/kg/day orally on the first day (maximum 500 mg), 5 mg/kg once daily on days 2-5 (maximum 250 mg/day)	500 mg orally on the first day, 250 mg once daily on days 2-5
<b>Clarithromycin</b> [2,4] Not recommended for use in pregnant women	not recommended for use in infants <6 months of age; see child dose for infants >6 months of age	15 mg/kg/day orally divided into 2 doses/day for 7 days (maximum 1 g/day)	500 mg twice daily for 7 days
<b>Erythromycin</b> [1,3,4]	Estolate preparation preferred if available  <b>1-5 months:</b> 40-50 mg/kg/day orally divided into 4 doses/day for 14 days (maximum 2 g/day)  <b>&lt;1 month of age:</b> same as above, but should only be used as an <b>alternate</b> drug. Drug use is associated with elevated risk of IHPS	40-50 mg/kg/day orally divided into 4 doses/day for 14 days (maximum 2 g/day)	2 g/day orally divided into 4 doses/day for 14 days
<b>Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole</b> [2,4] For those not able to tolerate macrolides. Not recommended for use in pregnant or nursing women	not recommended for use in children <2 months of age; see child dose for infants >2 months of age	8 mg TMP/40 mg SMX/kg/day orally divided into 2 doses/day for 14 days (maximum 320mg TMP/1600mg SMX/ day)	320 mg TMP/1600 mg SMX per day orally divided into 2 doses/day for 14 days

1. FDA Pregnancy Category B drug

2. FDA Pregnancy Category C drug

3. Some authorities prefer the estolate preparation for children but recommend avoiding its use in adults and pregnant women

4. Source: Centers for Disease and Control. [Recommended Antimicrobial Agents for the Treatment and Postexposure Prophylaxis of Pertussis](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Atlanta, GA, 2005.