



Pertussis Treatment and Chemoprophylaxis Recommendations

Antibiotic	Infants (< 6 months of age)	Infants (≥ 6 months of age) and children	Adults
Azithromycin (Zmax™ not yet approved for treatment/prophylaxis of pertussis)	10 mg/kg per day for 5 days (Preferred choice for infants)	10 mg/kg (max 500 mg) on day 1, followed by 5 mg/kg per day (max 250 mg) on days 2 – 5 (Zpack)	500 mg on day 1, followed by 250 mg per day on days 2 – 5 (Zpack)
Erythromycin	40 – 50 mg/kg per day (max 2 g per day) in 4 divided doses for 14 days (Not preferred for infants < 1 month of age)	40 – 50 mg/kg per day (max 2 g per day) in 4 divided doses for 14 days	2 g per day in 4 divided doses for 14 days
Clarithromycin (not recommended for use in pregnant women)	15 mg/kg per day (max 1 g per day) in 2 divided doses each day for 7 days (Not recommended in infants < 1 month of age)	15 mg/kg per day (max 1 g per day) in 2 divided doses each day for 7 days	1 g per day in 2 divided doses for 7 days
Alternative agent for patients/contacts who cannot tolerate macrolides			
Trimethoprim (TMP) – Sulfamethoxazole (SMX) (Bactrim™, Septra®) (not recommended for use in pregnant or nursing women)	TMP: 8 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days SMX: 40 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days (Both are contraindicated in infants < 2 months of age)	TMP: 8 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days SMX: 40 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days	TMP: 320 mg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days SMX: 1,600 mg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recommended Antimicrobial Agents for the Treatment and Postexposure Prophylaxis of Pertussis. MMWR December 9, 2005 / 54 (RR14); 1-16.