

Meningitis

Prescribing information: these guidelines do not include all the prescribing information for all the drugs. Please refer to the [BNF](#) or consult a pharmacist for appropriate use in specific populations, for example, hepatic impairment, renal impairment, pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Self-care: treatments marked as ^[OTC] are available to buy from pharmacies. Patients can be advised to purchase them as self-care where appropriate.

Guidelines about COVID-19: use [COVID-specific guidance issued by NICE](#) during the COVID pandemic.

Suspected meningococcal disease

Give intramuscular injection only if venous access cannot be found.

Last updated: Jul 2021

Arrange emergency medical transfer to hospital by telephoning 999.

Administer a single dose of parenteral benzylpenicillin (intravenously or intramuscularly) at the earliest opportunity, but do not delay urgent transfer to hospital.

Adults: IV or IM benzylpenicillin 1.2 g STAT

Withhold benzylpenicillin if the person has a clear history of penicillin anaphylaxis (a history of a rash following penicillin is not a contraindication).

Prevention of secondary case of meningitis

Only prescribe following advice from Public Health Doctor. To contact PHE North West Health Protection Team Cheshire and Merseyside phone 0344 225 0562 option 1.

Expert advice is available for managing clusters of meningitis. Please alert the appropriate organisation to any cluster situation.

Out of hours Public Health England phone 0151 434 4819 ask for public health on call.

Last updated: Dec 2019