

ORAL ANTIBIOTIC ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES

Drug Name	Separate from Antacids or Minerals	Empty Stomach	With or After Meals	With or Without Food	Do Not Crush	Nursing Notes
Amoxicillin (Amoxil)				✓		
Amoxicillin/Clavulanic Acid (Clavulin)				✓	✓	Administration with food may reduce GI side effects.
Azithromycin (Zithromax)				✓		
Cefprozil (Cefzil)				✓		
Cefuroxime (Ceftin)				✓	✓	Crushing results in unpleasant, bitter taste (no effect on activity of drug).
Cephalexin (Keflex)				✓		
Ciprofloxacin (Cipro)	✓			✓		
Ciprofloxacin extended-release (Cipro XL)	✓			✓	✓	Administration with food may reduce GI side effects.
Clarithromycin (Biaxin)				✓		
Clarithromycin extended-release (Biaxin XL)			✓		✓	Administration with food increases bioavailability.
Clindamycin (Dalacin)				✓		Give with glass of water to reduce esophageal irritation. Notify physician of any new onset of loose stools/diarrhea.
Cloxacillin (Orbenin)		✓				
Doxycycline (Vibramycin)	✓	✓			✓	
Erythromycin base (ERYC)		✓				Administration with food may reduce GI side effects.
Levofloxacin (Levaquin)	✓			✓		
Metronidazole (Flagyl)				✓		Strictly avoid alcohol intake during course of therapy; administration with food may reduce GI side effects.
Moxifloxacin (Avelox)	✓			✓	✓	
Minocycline (Minocin)	✓			✓		
Nitrofurantoin (Macrobid)			✓		✓	
Norfloxacin (Norflox)	✓	✓				
Penicillin (Pen-V)				✓		
Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim (Septra, Bactrim, SMX/TMP)				✓		Administration with food may reduce GI side effects; give with plenty of water.
Tetracycline (Tetracycln)	✓	✓				

Separate from Antacids or Minerals:	Give 2h before or 8h after antacids (Alugel, Almagel, Diovol) and minerals (calcium, iron, magnesium, zinc, aluminum) or dairy-containing foods
Empty Stomach:	1h before or 2h after meals with a full glass of liquid, usually water
With or After Meals:	Administer with or immediately following a meal
With or Without Food:	May be given without regard to meals
Do Not Crush:	Tablet may not be crushed or split; capsule may not be opened and sprinkled into food – must be taken whole

References:

Adapted from eCPS Clin-Info – Drug interactions with food; accessed April 7, 2013.

Drug facts and comparisons. St. Louis (MO): Facts and Comparisons; 2012.

McEvoy GK, editor. AHFS drug information. Bethesda (MD): American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2012.