

SHC Sepsis Empiric Antibiotic Selection Guide

Refer to [SHC Bugs and Drugs Website](#) for complete guidelines.

[SHC Antibiotic Dosing Guide](#) and [SHC Obesity Dosing Guide](#) for renal and obesity dose adjustments

- This reference guide summarizes the preferred empiric antibiotic choices for common infections in patients with normal renal function. Refer to the syndrome-specific guideline once a syndrome has been identified.
- This is not a comprehensive document and is intended to provide a quick reference for pharmacists during Code Sepsis for common infections.
- **De-escalation:** All empiric regimens should be tailored to culture results. Tailoring antibiotics to the organism that grows is critical to ensuring that the patient is adequately covered, but not on an unnecessarily broad regimen. Antibiotics should be discontinued if there is no longer a concern for infection.
- **Severe beta-lactam allergy:** High-risk allergies include angioedema, anaphylaxis, wheezing, laryngeal edema, hypotension, SJS/TEN, DRESS, etc. Please see [Antibiotic Allergy Rationale document](#) for details.

Suspected Source of Infection		Empiric Antibiotic Regimen	Comments
Pneumonia SHC Inpatient Pneumonia Guide	CAP	<u>Primary Regimen:</u> Ceftriaxone 2g IV Q24H + Azithromycin 500mg IV q24h <u>Risk factors for Pseudomonas[#]:</u> Replace ceftriaxone with cefepime 2g IV Q8H <u>Risk factors for MRSA [#]:</u> Add Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> - Levofloxacin 750mg IV Q24H monotherapy - <u><i>P. aeruginosa</i> risk factors[#]:</u> Aztreonam 2g IV Q8H + Levofloxacin 750mg IV Q24H	<u>MRSA and <i>P. aeruginosa</i> risk factors[#]:</u> - <i>P. aeruginosa</i> isolated from respiratory cultures within the last year - MRSA isolated from respiratory culture within 1 year - IV antibiotic use during a hospitalization in the last 90-days Previous microbiology results should guide antibiotic choice
	HAP / VAP	<u>Primary Regimen:</u> <u>Select One:</u> - Preferred: Cefepime 2g IV Q8H - Piperacillin/tazobactam 4.5g IV Q8H over 4 hours - Meropenem 1g IV Q8H (History of ESBL isolation) <u>If MRSA NARES+ or no recent results:</u> Add Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Aztreonam 2g iv q8h + Vancomycin per Pharmacy +/- Tobramycin 5-7 mg/kg x 1	<u>MDR <i>P. aeruginosa</i> risk factors:</u> Second anti-pseudomonal can be considered if: - Rapid infectious decompensation - Significant risk for resistance Previous microbiology results should guide antibiotic choice.

Suspected Source of Infection	Empiric Antibiotic Regimen	Comments
Urinary Tract Infection SHC UTI Guideline	<u>Low-risk for resistant bacteria:</u> - Ceftriaxone 2g IV Q24H <u>High-risk for resistant bacteria:</u> <i>Select One:</i> - Cefepime 1g Q8H - Ertapenem 1g IV Q24H (History of ESBL isolation) - Piperacillin-tazobactam 3.75g IV Q8H <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Aztreonam 2g IV Q8H	<u>Risk factors for resistant bacteria:</u> - Blood or urine culture with resistant organism in the past 12 months - Fluoroquinolone exposure within the past 12 months <u>GPC on urine Gram-Stain:</u> - May consider adding Vancomycin per Pharmacy Previous microbiology results should guide antibiotic choice.
Intra-abdominal Infection SHC IAI Guideline	Community-Acquired <u>Primary Regimen:</u> Piperacillin-tazobactam 4.5g IV Q8H over 4 hours <u>Alternative:</u> Cefepime 2g IV Q8H + Metronidazole 500mg IV Q8H (regimen does not provide enterococcal coverage**) <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Aztreonam 2g IV Q8H + Metronidazole 500mg IV Q8H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy	<u>MRSA risk factors*:</u> - May be considered for hospital-acquired infection with known MRSA colonization or invasive infection within the past year - Add Vancomycin Per Pharmacy. Vancomycin should be discontinued at 48-hours if MRSA is not recovered from cultures.
	Healthcare-Associated <u>Primary Regimen:</u> Piperacillin-tazobactam 4.5g IV Q8H over 4 hours <u>Alternatives:</u> - Meropenem 1g IV Q8H (History of ESBL isolation) - Cefepime 2g IV Q8H + Metronidazole 500mg IV Q8H (regimen does not provide enterococcal coverage**) <u>Risk factors for MRSA* or enterococcus**:</u> Add Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Risk factors for VRE***:</u> Add Linezolid 600mg IV Q24H <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Aztreonam 2g IV Q8H + Metronidazole 500mg IV Q8H + Vancomycin per Pharmacy	<u>Risk for Enterococcus**:</u> - Risk factors include hospital-acquired infection, post-operative infection, recent cephalosporin use, and immunocompromised state - May consider adding Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Risk for VRE***:</u> - Consider empiric VRE coverage in septic or severely ill patients with known colonization or prior invasive infection. - Add Linezolid 600mg IV BID

Suspected Source of Infection	Empiric Antibiotic Regimen	Comments
Skin & Skin Structure Infections SHC Skin & Skin Structure Infection Guide	<u>Non-purulent SSTI / Cellulitis</u> - Cefazolin 2g IV Q8H <u>Necrotizing Fasciitis, Clostridial Gas Gangrene, Myonecrosis:</u> - Piperacillin-tazobactam 4.5g IV Q8H over 4 hours + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy + Clindamycin 600-900mg IV Q8H <u>Cellulitis with Special Risk Factors^{&}:</u> Cefepime 2g IV Q8H + Metronidazole 500mg IV Q8h + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Aztreonam 2g IV Q8H + metronidazole 500mg IV Q8H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy	<u>Special Risk Factors^{&}:</u> - Malignancy on chemotherapy, neutropenia, severe cell-mediated immunodeficiency, immersion injuries, animal bites, diabetic foot ulcers
Bacterial Meningitis	<i>Community-Acquired</i> <u>Primary Regimen:</u> Ceftriaxone 2g IV Q12H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Non-severe Cephalosporin Allergy:</u> Meropenem 2g IV Q8H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Moxifloxacin 400mg IV Q24H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Age > 50 years of age; or Immunocompromised:</u> Add Ampicillin 2g IV Q4H to Primary Regimen <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Replace Ampicillin with TMP/SMX 5 mg/kg q6-8h (Only covers Listeria monocytogenes)	<u>>50 years of age / Immunocompromised:</u> - Increased risk for Listeriosis; add Ampicillin to primary regimen
	<i>Healthcare-Associated</i> <u>Post-Trauma or Post-neurosurgery</u> Cefepime 2g IV Q8H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Aztreonam 2g IV Q6-8H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy	Previous microbiology results should guide antibiotic choice.

Suspected Source of Infection	Empiric Antibiotic Regimen	Comments
No Apparent Source of Infection or Vascular Access Device Infection	Community-Acquired <u>Primary Regimen:</u> Vancomycin Per Pharmacy PLUS (select one): Ceftriaxone 2g IV Q24H Ertapenem 1g IV Q24H (History of ESBL isolation) Piperacillin/tazobactam 3.375g IV Q8H over 4 hours <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Aztreonam 2g IV Q8H + Metronidazole 500mg IV Q8H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy	Previous microbiology results should guide antibiotic choice.
	Healthcare-Associated <u>Primary Regimen:</u> Vancomycin Per Pharmacy PLUS (select one): Piperacillin/Tazobactam 3.375g IV Q8H over 4 hours Cefepime 2g IV Q8H Meropenem (History of ESBL isolation) <u>Severe beta-lactam allergy:</u> Aztreonam 2g IV Q8H + Metronidazole 500mg IV Q8H + Vancomycin Per Pharmacy	

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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B. Gatekeeper: SASS Program C. Review and Renewal Requirement This document will be reviewed every three years and as required by change of law or practice

D. Revision/Review History: Stan Deresinski, MD 05/2017, 01/2025; Marisa Holubar, MD 05/2017, 01/2025; Lina Meng, PharmD 05/2017, 01/2025; Emily Mui, PharmD 05/2017, 01/2025; Alex Zimmet, MD 01/2025; William Alegria, PharmD 01/2025; David Ha, PharmD 01/2025

E. Approvals: Antimicrobial Subcommittee: 6/2015, 05/2017, 01/2025; Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee: 06/2015