

## Co-trimoxazole

**FORM** Oral Suspension 240mg/5ml  
(Contains sulfamethoxazole 200mg and trimethoprim 40mg)

**INDICATION**

1. Treatment of susceptible infections
2. Prophylaxis of Pneumocystis Carinii infection in the immunocompromised

**DOSE RANGE**

1. Treatment of susceptible infections

AGE	DOSE	FREQUENCY	ROUTE
6 weeks – 6 months	120mg	Twice daily	Oral

2. Prophylaxis of Pneumocystis Carinii infection in the immunocompromised

AGE	DOSE	FREQUENCY	ROUTE
4 weeks – 6 months*	120mg	THREE times weekly (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)	Oral

\* Treatment should be continued until the infant is 3 months old OR confirmed to be free of infection

**CAUTIONS, CONTRA-INDICATIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS**

- See Summary of Product Characteristics and most recent edition of BNF for Children (links below)

Treatment should be stopped if blood disorders or rashes develop. Counsel parent/ carer to report all rashes, sore throats, fevers and other manifestations of agranulocytosis.

**SPECIAL MONITORING**

Monitor blood levels of sulphamethoxazole when large doses of co-trimoxazole are given e.g. pneumocystis treatment or if renal function is poor

- Approx. time to steady state: 2-3 days.
- Therapeutic level: 100-150mg/L.
- If level is above 150mg/L stop treatment until level falls below 120mg/L than restart treatment at a lower dose.
- Take a trough sample, immediately prior to next dose.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

- Not to be used until babies are at least FOUR WEEKS POST TERM.
- Consider trimethoprim as an alternative for treatment of infection.
- Sulphonamides displace bilirubin from protein binding sites, and so, because of the risk of kernicterus, **co-trimoxazole is contraindicated in neonates.**
- Severe adverse reactions to co-trimoxazole, similar to Stevens-Johnson syndrome, may occur, particularly in HIV patients. Seek expert advice.

**LICENSED STATUS**

Licensed for use in infants aged 6 weeks and over

**LINKS**

[BNF for Children:](#) / [Electronic Medicines Compendium](#)

**APPLICABLE POLICIES**

[West of Scotland Neonatal Guidelines:](#)

Consult local policy if applicable

# West of Scotland ORAL/ OTHER ROUTE Drug Monographs

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Document Number:	001	Supersedes:	Nil
Prepared by:	WoS Neo pharm group	Checked by	Maria Tracey
Date prepared	Aug 2016	Date updated	
Updated by		Review Date	Aug 2019

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Dose may vary depending on indication, age, renal function, hepatic function, and concomitant medications.  
This monograph should be used in conjunction with the package insert, BNF for Children, and Summary of Product Characteristics. For further advice contact your clinical pharmacist or pharmacy department.

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