

PRESCRIBING GUIDELINE: Commonly Prescribed Drugs in Pregnancy

For further information including full details of contraindications, cautions, drug interactions and adverse effects always check with BNF www.bnf.org.uk or SPC (www.medicines.org.uk).

Indication	Drug	Dose	Duration	Evidence base
Allergy/pruritis	Chlorphenamine	4mg 4-6 hrly	prn	http://www.uktis.org/docs/chlorphenamine.pdf
Analgesia	Paracetamol	1g QDS	Prn	www.bnf.org.uk
	Codeine phosphate	30mg-60mg QDS	Prn	www.bnf.org.uk
	Hyoscine Butylbromide	10-20mg QDS	Prn	http://www.uktis.org/docs/HYOSCINE.PDF
Anaemia	Ferrous iron	As per BNF	Review postpartum	www.bnf.org.uk
	Folic acid	5mg OD	4 months & review	www.bnf.org.uk (for prevention of NTD see section below)
	Hydroxocobalamin	As per BNF	Review postpartum	http://www.uktis.org/docs/Vitamin%20B12.pdf
Asthma	Inhaled beta-2 agonist	As per BNF	Prn	www.bnf.org.uk
	Inhaled corticosteroid	As per BNF	Review postpartum	
	Short courses oral prednisolone	As per BNF	Prn	
Cholestasis	Ursodeoxycholic acid	250-500mg BD	Review postpartum	http://www.rcog.org.uk/files/rcog-corp/GTG43obstetriccholestasis.pdf HEY Guideline on Obstetric Cholestasis
	Menadiol sodium phosphate	10mg OD (if steatorrhoea present)		
	Topical emollients	Apply prn for pruritis	Prn	
Constipation	Ispaghula husk	1 sachet BD	Prn	www.bnf.org.uk
	Lactulose	15ml BD	Prn	

Indication	Drug	Dose	Duration	Evidence base
Diabetes	Metformin	As per BNF dose range, adjusted as per specialist advice	Review postpartum	http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/diabetes-in-pregnancy/diabetes-in-pregnancy-overview HEY guideline on Management of Pre-existing Diabetes in Pregnancy
	Insulin			
GORD	Anatcids / alginates	As per BNF	Prn	http://cks.nice.org.uk/dyspepsia-pregnancy-associated#!management
	Ranitidine	150mg BD	Review postpartum	
	Omeprazole	10-20mg OD		
Hyperemesis	Promethazine	25mg BD	1 week then review	http://cks.nice.org.uk/nauseavomiting-in-pregnancy#specialityTab HEY guideline on Management of Severe Nausea & Vomiting in Pregnancy
	Cyclizine	50mg TDS		
	Prochlorperazine	5mg TDS		
Hypertension	Labetalol	100mg-200mg BD-QDS	Review 2 weeks post-partum	http://publications.nice.org.uk/hypertension-in-pregnancy-cg107 www.bnf.org.uk HEY Guideline Hyeprtension and Pre-eclampsia GP Guidance on Hypertension GP standard letter for hypertension
	Nifedipine m/r	10-40mg BD or 20-90mg OD		
	Methyldopa	250mg-1g BD-TDS		
Hypothyroidism	Levothyroxine	As per BNF	Review postpartum	
Infection	Penicillins (including co-amoxiclav)	As per BNF	As per BNF	www.bnf.org http://www.hey.nhs.uk/herpc/pctAntibioticGuidelines.pdf
	Cephalosporins	As per BNF	As per BNF	
	Erythromycin	As per BNF	As per BNF	
	Metronidazole	400mg TDS (Bd for some indications)	As per BNF	
- UTI	Nitrofurantoin (avoid at term)	50mg QDS or m/r 100mg BD	7 days	www.bnf.org.uk http://www.hey.nhs.uk/herpc/pctAntibioticGuidelines.pdf Amoxicillin also recommended (if sensitive). Cefalexin recommended for resistant organisms.
	Trimethoprim (2 nd and 3 rd trimester)	200mg BD	7 days	

Indication	Drug	Dose	Duration	Evidence base
- Vaginal candidiasis	Clotrimazole pessary	100mg ON	6 nights	www.bnf.org.uk http://www.hey.nhs.uk/herpc/pctAntibioticGuidelines.pdf
	Miconazole intravaginal cream	5g BD	7 days	
- Oral candidiasis	Nystatin Oral Suspension	1ml QDS	7-10 days	
Neural tube defects, prevention of	Folic acid: Low risk High risk	400 micrograms OD 5mg OD	Until end of first trimester	www.bnf.org.uk
Pre-eclampsia - Moderate to high risk	Aspirin	75mg OD	From 12 weeks until delivery	http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG107 www.bnf.org.uk HEY Guideline Hypertension and Pre-eclampsia
VTE treatment	Dalteparin	100 units/kg BD 200 units/kg OD (dose rounded to nearest 500 units)	During pregnancy Postnatal until end of course or change back to warfarin	http://www.rcog.org.uk/files/rcog-corp/GTG37aReducingRiskThrombosis.pdf HEY Guideline on Thromboprophylaxis in Pregnancy
VTE Prophylaxis in pregnancy - Very high risk - High risk	Dalteparin	50-90kg: 5000 units BD or 75% of treatment dose listed above 5000 units OD	6 weeks postpartum or until changed back to warfarin 6 weeks postpartum	
VTE prophylaxis postpartum - High or intermediate risk	Dalteparin	(Weight at 36 weeks) <50kg: 2500 units OD 50-90kg: 5000 units OD 91-130kg: 7500 units OD 131-170kg: 10000units OD > 170 kg: 75 units/kg/day	High risk – 6 weeks postpartum Intermediate risk – 10 days postpartum	