

Piperacillin-tazobactam - medication shortage

Fact Sheet – for *adults in hospital and acute care facilities*

This **Fact Sheet** is intended as a guide only and does not equate to expert opinion. Interpretation of recommendations should always be taken in context with local variations, the patient's current condition and formal clinical review. Our recommendations are based on Therapeutic Guidelines, review of the literature and expert consensus.



**There is currently an Australia-wide shortage of
piperacillin-tazobactam**

Review whether piperacillin-tazobactam is required:

Is it required for the indication?	Review your local guidelines or the <i>Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic</i> If piperacillin-tazobactam is not indicated for that indication, cease or change therapy
Can empiric therapy be changed at 48 hours ?	If investigations do not reveal a multi-resistant pathogen and the patient clinically improves, then empiric broad spectrum antibiotic therapy can often be de-escalated
Consider directed therapy	Always review the susceptibilities of isolates and choose the narrowest spectrum antibiotic option

If required, empiric antibiotic alternatives include:

Febrile neutropenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cefepime
Hospital acquired pneumonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ceftriaxone OR amoxicillin-clavulanate¹
Diabetic foot and ischaemic ulcer infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cefazolin plus metronidazole OR amoxicillin-clavulanate¹ - add ciprofloxacin if <i>Pseudomonas</i> suspected or confirmed
Sepsis intra-abdominal source, peritonitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> amoxicillin² plus gentamicin plus metronidazole - if no risk factors for gentamicin toxicity OR ceftriaxone plus metronidazole³ OR amoxicillin-clavulanate¹
Traumatic / contaminated wounds, open fractures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cefazolin plus metronidazole OR amoxicillin-clavulanate¹

1. **amoxicillin-clavulanate** is now available as both intravenous and oral formulations
- check with your pharmacist regarding current availability
2. at some sites **ampicillin** will be used instead of **amoxicillin**
3. at some sites the addition of **amoxicillin** may be recommend to empirically treat *Enterococcus*