# WOMEN AND NEWBORN HEALTH SERVICE
Neonatology Clinical Care Unit (NCCU)
King Edward Memorial Hospital & Princess Margaret Hospital

## NEONATAL MEDICATION PROTOCOLS

**DRUG:** MEROPENEM  
**PRESENTATION:** Vial: 500 mg  
**ALERTS & RESTRICTIONS:** Antimicrobial Restriction: Category B ORANGE Monitored

**ACTION & INDICATION:** A carbapenem antibiotic. Acts by interfering with bacterial cell wall synthesis. It is active against a broad spectrum of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria. Meropenem is indicated in the treatment of severe infections including intra-abdominal infections, meningitis and other infections where multi-resistant infections are suspected or proven.

**DOSE:** Intra-abdominal and NON-CNS infections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corrected Gestational Age</th>
<th>Postnatal age</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;32 weeks</td>
<td>&lt; 14 days</td>
<td>20mg/kg</td>
<td>12 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;32 weeks</td>
<td>≥ 14 days</td>
<td>20mg/kg</td>
<td>8 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 32 weeks</td>
<td>&lt; 14 days</td>
<td>20mg/kg</td>
<td>8 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 32 weeks</td>
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<td>30mg/kg</td>
<td>8 hourly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PREPARATION:** IV: Use solution prepared in Pharmacy if available. If premade solution is not available, use the following process to prepare a 50mg/mL OR 25mg/mL solution.

Diluents: Water for Injections, 0.9% Sodium chloride, 5% and 10% Glucose.  
Add 9.6mL diluent to vial = 50 mg/mL.  
If more dilute solution required add 19.6mL diluent to vial = 25mg/mL.

**ADMINISTRATION:** IV Infusion: Infuse over 30 minutes.

**ADVERSE EFFECTS:** Diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, thrombophlebitis, Rash, pruritis, urticaria, Eosinophilia, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, abnormal liver function tests, seizures.

**COMMENTS:** Discard reconstituted solution immediately after use. Cross reactivity may occur in patients with a history or hypersensitivity reactions to penicillins, carbapenems or cephalosporins.