## Women and Newborn Health Service

### Neonatology Clinical Care Unit (NCCU)
King Edward Memorial Hospital & Princess Margaret Hospital

---

**Drug:** Metronidazole

### Presentation:
- Infusion: 500 mg/100 mL
- Oral suspension: 200 mg/5 mL

### Action & Indication:
Antimicrobial agent used for treating infection (anaerobic or protozoal). May be used prophylactically.

### Dose:
- **≤ 7 days:**
  - Initial dose: 15 mg/kg
  - Maintenance: 7.5 mg/kg/dose 24 hourly
- **≥ 7 days:**
  - Initial dose: 15 mg/kg
  - Maintenance: 7.5 mg/kg/dose 12 hourly
- If ≥ 44 weeks:
  - Maintenance dose: 7.5 mg/kg/dose 8 hourly, commencing 8 hours after the loading dose of 15 mg/kg.

### Administration:
- Oral: Administer half to one hour before feeds.
- Intravenous; umbilical arterial:
  - Infuse over 20 minutes

### Adverse Effects:
- Leucopenia, monitor white cell count and differential.
- CNS effects, seizures (rare).
- Peripheral neuropathy - discontinue immediately.
- Gastrointestinal effects

### Comments:
Discard IV bag immediately after use.
Do not refrigerate intravenous solution.

### References:
- Neofax 2013
- BNF for Children 2013

### Date:
October 2013