

# AMPHOTERICIN B LIPOSOMAL (Ambisome<sup>®</sup>)

Read in conjunction with [Disclaimer](#)

## **! HIGH RISK Medication !**

Confusion between the formulations of amphotericin B (Fungizone<sup>®</sup>) and amphotericin B liposomal (Ambisome<sup>®</sup>) may result in errors, both of prescribing and administration.

These medications are **NOT** interchangeable.

<b>Formulary: Restricted</b>	
Requires microbiologist review within 24 hours of initiation.	
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Vial:</b> 50 mg
<b>Classification</b>	Polyene antifungal.
<b>Indication</b>	Treatment of invasive fungal infections by susceptible fungi including <i>Candida spp.</i> , <i>Aspergillus spp.</i> and <i>Cryptococcus spp.</i> <i>Candida lusitanae</i> and <i>Aspergillus terreus</i> are resistant.
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urine output.</li> <li>• Full blood count (FBC) for anaemia and thrombocytopenia.</li> <li>• Renal function (for elevated creatinine).</li> <li>• Electrolytes (for hypokalaemia, hypomagnesemia and other electrolyte disturbances).</li> <li>• Liver function (for derangements of liver enzymes).</li> <li>• Monitor serum concentrations of concomitant nephrotoxic drugs.</li> </ul>
<b>Compatibility</b>	<b>Fluids:</b> Glucose 5%. <b>Y-site:</b> Do not mix with other medications.
<b>Incompatibility</b>	<b>Fluids:</b> Sodium chloride 0.9%.
<b>Interactions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased risk of nephrotoxicity if used concurrently with other nephrotoxic drugs e.g. aminoglycosides, vancomycin.</li> <li>• Administration with other medications that reduce potassium concentration may worsen hypokalaemia. Monitor potassium concentration; supplements may be needed.</li> <li>• <b>Azoles:</b> Possible antagonistic effect; potentially reduced antifungal efficacy.</li> </ul>
<b>Adverse Effects</b>	Hypokalaemia, hypocalcaemia, hypomagnesaemia, hyponatraemia, hepatotoxicity, nephrotoxicity, nausea, vomiting. <b>Infusion-related reactions:</b> Rigors, fever, chills, tachycardia, rash, chills, hypertension, hypotension, hypoxia.
<b>Storage &amp; Stability</b>	<b>Vial:</b> Store at room temperature, 25°C.
<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) penetration of lipid formulations of amphotericin B is poor.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate hydration (may reduce the risk of nephrotoxicity).</li> </ul>

# INTRAVENOUS INFUSION

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Vial: 50 mg</b> <b>Available from CIVAS (KEMH) and PCS (PCH)</b>
<b>Dosage</b>	<b>Starting dose:</b> 1 mg/kg once daily, increased if necessary to 3 mg/kg once daily. <b>Maximum dose:</b> 5 mg/kg once daily. <i>Use higher dose for severe infection or where CNS infection is present or suspected.</i>
<b>Preparation</b>	<b>Vial: 50 mg</b> <b>Step 1 Reconstitution:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add 12 mL of water for injection to the amphotericin B liposomal vial.</li> <li>• Immediately shake vigorously for at least 30 seconds to disperse the medication.</li> <li>• Filter reconstituted solution using supplied filter, prior to dilution.</li> </ul> Concentration equal to 4 mg/mL. <b>Step 2 Dilution:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up 5 mL (20 mg) and make up to 10 mL total volume with glucose 5%.</li> </ul> Concentration now equal to <b>2 mg/mL</b> .
<b>Administration</b>	<b>IV infusion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flush the line before and after administration with glucose 5%.</li> <li>• Infuse via syringe driver pump over 60 to 120 minutes.</li> <li>• If infusion-related immediate reactions occur (see <a href="#">Adverse Effects</a>), duration of infusion may be increased to 3 to 4 hours.</li> </ul>



## Related Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

HDWA Mandatory Policies:

[MP 0131/20: WA High Risk Medication Policy](#)

Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[CAHS Neonatology – Medication Administration Guideline](#)

[High Risk Medicines](#)

## References

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## Document history

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Abbreviations	IV: intravenous, ID: infectious diseases, CNS: central nervous system, CIVAS: Centralised Intravenous Additive Service, PCS: Pharmacy Compounding Service, KEMH: King Edward Memorial Hospital, PCH: Perth Children's Hospital				
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	 Std 4: Medication Safety				
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