



## ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

# Amphotericin B

**Scope (Staff):** All WNHS Staff

**Scope (Area):** Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

### Quick Links

[Dose](#)

[Administration](#)

[Monitoring](#)

[Pregnancy and  
Breastfeeding](#)

### Restrictions

[Formulary: Highly Restricted](#) - conventional colloidal (IV), liposomal

[Formulary: Restricted](#) - oral liquid suspension

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#) - lozenge

[SAS Category A](#) conventional colloidal and oral liquid suspension (items requires approval by TGA)

[HIGH RISK Medication](#) 

Amphotericin B is a highly specialised medication.

**Amphotericin B can be associated with serious adverse effects including nephrotoxicity, infusion related reactions and significant electrolyte disturbances.**

There are THREE formulation of amphotericin B and they are **NOT** interchangeable.

### Medication Class

Antifungal antimicrobial

### Presentation

**Lozenge:** 10 mg

**Vial (liposomal):** 50 mg vial

**Vial (conventional colloidal, SAS):** 50 mg vial – liaise with pharmacy to organise stock

## Storage

**Vial (liposomal), Lozenge:** Store at room temperature, below 25°C.

**Vial (conventional colloidal):** Store at 2 to 8 °C. Protect from light.

## Dose

**Severe systemic fungal infections** - use liposomal amphotericin B (AmBisome®)

**Route: IV**

3-5 mg/kg once daily

**Oral candidiasis** – use oral lozenge

**Route: Oral**

One lozenge (10 mg) 4 times daily for 7 to 14 days

## Administration

### Oral

Use after food or drink. To be sucked slowly then swallowed.

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)

### **IV Infusion (liposomal)**

#### ***Step 1 Reconstitution:***

Reconstitute 50 mg vial with 12 mL of water for injections.

Final concentration is 4 mg/mL.

Shake the vial vigorously for at least 30 seconds to disperse completely.

Solution is translucent and yellow.

Do not use if there is precipitate or particles.

#### ***Step 2 Dilution:***

Dilute the dose with glucose 5% to make a final concentration between 0.2 – 2 mg/mL.

Use the 5 micrometre filter supplied to add the dose to glucose 5%.

#### ***Step 3 Administration:***

Infuse over 30 to 60 minutes.

Flush IV lines with glucose 5% before and after the infusion or use a separate line.

**IV Infusion (conventional colloidal)**

Contact pharmacy for advice or refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#).

**Monitoring****Renal impairment**

- Despite the liposomal formulation of amphotericin B being less renally toxic than the conventional formulation of amphotericin B, it can still cause adverse effects.
- Correlation exists between the dose of liposomal amphotericin B and the incidence of renal toxicity.
- Monitor serum electrolytes (e.g. potassium, magnesium), renal function and blood counts at least twice weekly whilst receiving therapy.
- Monitor for signs of hypokalaemia – muscle weakness, cramping, ECG changes, drowsiness.
- Concurrent nephrotoxic medications may result in an additive effect and increase the risk for renal impairment.

**Diabetes**

- Each vial of liposomal amphotericin 50 mg contains approximately 900 mg of sucrose.
- Careful monitoring of blood glucose levels during treatment is strongly recommended.

**Request full blood count daily during treatment**

Monitor liver function tests twice a week during treatment.

**Pregnancy**

**1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use.

**Breastfeeding**

Considered safe to use.

**Comments**

Check drug interactions.

Incompatible with sodium chloride.

## Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

### HDWA Mandatory Policies:

[WA Adult Medicines Formulary](#)

### WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

[High Risk Medicines](#)

### WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[Medication Administration](#)

## References









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[SCGOPHCG IV Liposomal Amphotericin B \(AmBisome\)](#)

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