ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
Famciclovir	
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: Restricted

Medication Class

Antiviral

Presentation

Tablet: 250 mg

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Dose

Non-pregnant adult

Assuming immunocompetent and normal renal function

Genital herpes simplex

Initial infection:

250 mg orally, every 8 hours for 10 days. If clinical response is rapid, stop therapy after 5 days

Episodic therapy:

1 g orally, every 12 hours for 1 day.

Suppressive therapy:

250 mg orally, every 12 hours for 10 days. Treatment may be continuous or interrupted at intervals to determine the natural history of disease and restarted in the event of frequent recurrences.

Orolabial herpes simplex (cold sores)

Severe initial infection:

500 mg orally, every 12 hours for 7 days

Infrequent but mild to severe recurrent infection:

1500 mg orally, as a single dose

Herpes zoster (Shingles) or Varicella (Chicken pox)

500 mg orally, every 8 hours for 7 days. Commence treatment within 72 hours of onset of rash.

Administration

Oral

Drink plenty of fluids to ensure adequate hydration

Monitoring

Consider dose reduction in renal impairment or if immunocompromised

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Consider alternative

2nd Trimester: Consider alternative

3rd Trimester: Consider alternative

Aciclovir is the most studied antiviral medicine and is considered the medicine of choice during pregnancy.

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Breastfeeding

Consider alternative

Aciclovir is the most studied antiviral medicine and is considered the medicine of choice in breastfeeding.

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

External Legislation, Standards and Policy (list and hyperlink)

Check if existing higher level documents to avoid content duplication- see DoH WA and National, NMHS policies, WNHS policies, ACSQHC, NSQHS, ACORN

HDWA Mandatory Policies:

Antimicrobial Stewardship

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

Herpes Simplex in Pregnancy

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

Medication Administration

References

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AusDI. Famciclovir. In: AusDI [Internet]. Telstra Health: AusDI; [cited 2025 Mar 20]. Available from: APO-FAMCICLOVIR (FAMCICLOVIR) TABLETS Product Information - AusDI (health.wa.gov.au)

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NSQHS Standards Applicable:	☒ Std 1: Clinical Governance ☐ Std 2: Partnering with Consumers ☐ Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection ☒ Std 4: Medication Safety			☐ Std 5: Comprehensive Care ☐ Std 6: Communicating for Safety ☐ Std 7: Blood Management ☐ Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration	
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