

Antibiotics Quick Reference

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Penicillins

Drug	Common Uses	Key Notes
Amoxicillin	Otitis media, sinusitis, strep pharyngitis, UTI	First-line for many infections; safe in pregnancy
Amoxicillin-Clavulanate	Resistant sinusitis, bite wounds, complicated UTI	Clavulanate = beta-lactamase inhibitor
Penicillin VK	Strep pharyngitis, dental infections	Narrow spectrum; gold standard for GAS

Cephalosporins

Generation	Examples	Coverage
1st Gen	Cephalexin (Keflex)	Gram-positive; skin/soft tissue, UTI
2nd Gen	Cefuroxime, Cefaclor	Better gram-negative; respiratory infections
3rd Gen	Ceftriaxone, Cefdinir	Broad-spectrum; meningitis, gonorrhea

Macrolides

Drug	Uses	Key Notes
Azithromycin (Z-pack)	CAP, Chlamydia, MAC prophylaxis	QT prolongation risk; PCN allergy alternative
Clarithromycin	H. pylori (triple therapy), sinusitis	Many drug interactions (CYP3A4)

Fluoroquinolones

Drug	Uses	Key Notes
Ciprofloxacin	UTI, prostatitis, anthrax	FDA black box: tendon rupture, neuropathy

Levofloxacin	CAP, complicated UTI, sinusitis	"Respiratory fluoroquinolone"
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Memory Tricks

- **PCN allergy?** → Use macrolide (azithromycin) or fluoroquinolone
- **"-cillin"** = Penicillin class
- **"Cef-"** = Cephalosporin class (~10% cross-reactivity with PCN)
- **"-mycin / -thromycin"** = Macrolide class
- **"-floxacin"** = Fluoroquinolone class
- **Pregnant?** Safe: Penicillins, Cephalosporins. Avoid: Fluoroquinolones, Tetracyclines

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