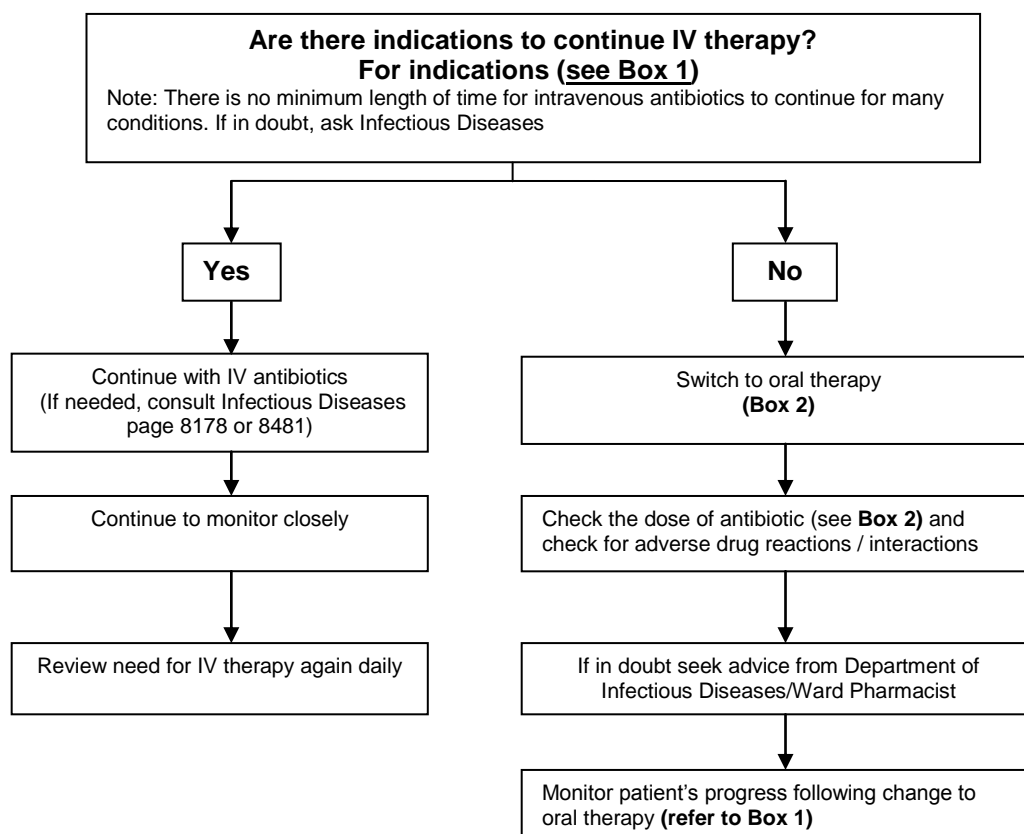


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Switching from intravenous to oral antibiotics

The inappropriate continuation of intravenously administered antibiotics can lead to increased morbidity and length of stay without clinical benefit. The following guideline has been developed by the departments of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Pharmacology, Christchurch Hospital. Its aim is to encourage the safe switch from intravenous to oral antibiotic therapy in appropriate patients.

Intravenous Antibiotic - Oral Switch Therapy Protocol



Box 1

Indications to Continue IV Therapy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing serious sepsis (2 or more of the following) - temp > 38°C or < 36°C - tachycardia > 90/min - tachypnoea > 20 breaths/min - WCC > 12 or < 4 x 10⁹/L Febrile with neutropenia (WCC < 1.0 x 10⁹/L) Specific infections which require high dose IV therapy e.g. endocarditis, staphylococcal bacteraemia, septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, meningitis, some abscesses, prosthetic device infection (consult Infectious Diseases Registrar, page 8178 or 8481) Cellulitis – If slow response consult Infectious Diseases Service as above or home IV nurse, page 8839 Oral route compromised – e.g. vomiting, severe diarrhoea, unconscious Patient post surgery and not tolerating 1 litre of fluid orally IV antibiotic not included in Box 2

Box 2

IV	Oral
amoxicillin 500 mg – 1 g 8 hourly	amoxicillin 500 mg – 1 g tds *
amoxicillin 1 g 8 hourly + metronidazole 500 mg 8 hourly + gentamicin as per renal function	amoxicillin* / clavulanate 625 mg tds *
amoxicillin 1 g 8 hourly + metronidazole 500 mg 8 hourly	amoxicillin 1 g tds + metronidazole 400 mg tds *
benzylpenicillin 1.2 g 6 hourly	phenoxymethyl penicillin 500 mg qds
clarithromycin 500 mg 12 hourly	roxithromycin 300 mg once a day*
amoxicillin / clavulanate 1.2 g 8 hourly	amoxicillin / clavulanate 625 mg tds *
ciprofloxacin 400 mg 12 hourly	ciprofloxacin 500 mg bd *
flucloxacillin 1 g 6 hourly	flucloxacillin 1 g qds
metronidazole 500 mg 8 hourly	metronidazole 400 mg tds *
gentamicin as per renal function	seek micro or ID advice
* these drugs have very high oral availability	

Based on an Antimicrobial Management Group protocol used in NHS Tayside