

Dosing instructions for the use of currently available fixed-dose combination TB medicines for children

Interim prescriber information for weight based dosing of first-line anti tuberculosis medicines for children

The dosing recommendations of the WHO for first-line anti tuberculosis medicines for children have been revised and are listed below. These recommendations apply to regimens for once daily dosing.

Comparison of previous and current WHO recommendations for dose by weight of first-line anti tuberculosis medicines for children :

	Previous recommendation (mg/kg/d)	Current recommendation(mg/kg/d)
Rifampicin	8 to 12	10 to 20
Isoniazid	4 to 6	10 to 15
Pyrazinamide	20 to 30	30 to 40
Ethambutol	15 to 20	15 to 25

The following dosing tables have been constructed to provide dosing regimens that achieve these target doses using currently available fixed dose combination products.

Wherever possible, use of dispersible tablets is preferred (marked with *).

Notes:

1. Children receiving treatment for tuberculosis must be weighed at least every month.
2. Treatment doses should be adjusted as soon as a child changes weight bands.
3. Check tablet strengths carefully, especially tablets containing 60mg+30 rifampicin + isoniazid and 60+60 rifampicin + isoniazid , to avoid toxicity.
4. Children weighing more than 30 kg should be treated according to the current adult treatment guidelines.

A. Interim dosing regimens for NEW CASES

Children between 5kg and 20kg:

- *without Ethambutol:*

Weight (kg)	Intensive phase (2 months)		Continuation phase (4 months)	
	Rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide* (60,30,150)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,30)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)
5 to 7	1	1	1	1
8 to 14	2	1	2	1
15 to 20	3	2	3	2

- *with Ethambutol:*

Weight (kg)	Intensive phase (2 months)			Continuation phase (4 months)	
	Rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide* (60,30,150)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)	Ethambutol (100)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,30)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)
5 to 7	1	1	1	1	1
8 to 14	2	1	2	2	1
15 to 20	3	2	3	3	2

Children between 21kg and 30kg:

- *without Ethambutol:*

Weight (kg)	Intensive phase (2 months)			Continuation phase (4 months)	
	Rifampicin, isoniazid (150, 75)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)	Pyrazinamide (400)	Rifampicin, isoniazid (150,75)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)
21 to 30	2	2	2	2	2

- *with Ethambutol:*

Weight (kg)	Intensive phase (2 months)		Continuation phase (4 months)	
	Rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide, ethambutol (150,75,400,275)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)	Rifampicin, isoniazid (150,75)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)
21 to 30	2	2	2	2

B. Interim dosing regimens for Retreatment Cases

*Note: **Streptomycin** injection is not included in these tables since the doses recommended are unchanged. It should still be administered in the first two months of the intensive phase*

Children between 5kg and 20kg:

Weight (kg)	Intensive phase (3 months)			Continuation phase (5 months)		
	Rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide* (60,30,150)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)	Ethambutol (100)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,30)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)	Ethambutol (100)
5 to 7	1	1	1	1	1	1
8 to 14	2	1	2	2	1	2
15 to 20	3	2	3	3	2	3

Children between 21kg and 30kg:

Weight (kg)	Intensive phase (3 months)		Continuation phase (5 months)		
	Rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide, ethambutol (150,75,400,275)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)	Rifampicin, isoniazid (150,75)	Rifampicin, isoniazid* (60,60)	Ethambutol (400)
21 to 30	2	2	2	2	1