

Impetigo		
V2.1	Last reviewed: 17/11/2022	Review date: 17/11/2025

SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS

Impetigo

([CKS - Impetigo](#))([NICE Guidance \(NG153\)](#))

Impetigo is a common superficial bacterial infection of the skin. The two main clinical forms are:

- **Non-bullous impetigo** — accounts for most cases (about 70%).
- **Bullous impetigo** — bullae are fluid filled lesions which are usually more than 5mm in diameter.

Organisms:

- Staphylococcus aureus
- Group A Streptococci

Advise people with impetigo, and their parents or carers if appropriate, about good hygiene measures to reduce the risk of impetigo spreading to other areas of the body and to other people.

- British Association of Dermatologists patient information leaflet [here](#)

Treatment:

Do not offer combination treatment with a topical and oral antibiotic to treat impetigo.

Medication ¹	Dose	Duration
Localised non-bullous impetigo (not around the eyes)		
Hydrogen peroxide 1% cream (Crystacide®) (Not suitable for use around the eyes) Available as an OTC Pharmacy Only medication	Adults and children: Apply two or three times a day	5 days
Localised non-bullous impetigo (around the eyes) or widespread non-bullous impetigo or for localised non-bullous impetigo if hydrogen peroxide is ineffective or is not suitable		
1st line: Topical fusidic acid 2% cream	Adults and children: Apply three times a day	5 days
Alternative: Topical mupirocin 2% ointment (If fusidic acid resistance suspected or confirmed e.g., if MRSA / PVL-SA)	Adults and children: Apply three times a day	5 days
Bullous impetigo or systemically unwell or at high risk of complications, or if non-bullous impetigo is too widespread for topical treatment		
1st line: Flucloxacillin (Not suitable if penicillin allergy)	1 month to 1 year: 62.5-125mg four times a day 2 to 9 years: 125-250mg four times a day 10 to 17 years: 250-500mg four times a day Adults: 500mg four times a day	5 days (appropriate for most people, but can be increased to 7 days if severe or high number of lesions)
Alternative oral antibiotics if penicillin allergy or flucloxacillin unsuitable:		
Clarithromycin ³	1 month to 11 years: Under 8kg: 7.5mg/kg twice a day 8 to 11kg: 62.5mg twice a day 12 to 19kg: 125mg twice a day 20 to 29kg: 187.5mg twice a day Adults & children ≥12 years or ≥30kg: 250mg twice a day. Increase to 500mg twice a day for severe infections in children over 12 years and adults.	5 days (appropriate for most people, but can be increased to 7 days if severe or high number of lesions)

Impetigo

V2.1

Last reviewed: 17/11/2022

Review date: 17/11/2025



Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee

Erythromycin ^{2,3} (Preferred in pregnancy)	8 to 17 years: 250mg-500mg four times a day Adults: 250-500mg four times a day	5 days (appropriate for most people, but can be increased to 7 days if severe or high number of lesions)
<p>¹ See BNF for appropriate use and dosing in specific populations, e.g., hepatic, or renal impairment, pregnancy, and breastfeeding.</p> <p>² Erythromycin is preferred in women who are pregnant.</p> <p>³ Withhold statins whilst on clarithromycin/erythromycin course.</p>		

Version Control - Impetigo			
Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes
V2.1	Nichola Butcher, Specialist MO Interface Pharmacist	17/11/22	Description added and link to CKS. PIL added. Doses checked with BNF and BNFC. Additional children's doses added. Footnote row added to treatment table. Doxycycline removed as option as not in CKS/BNF.