

Children < 16 years old – Primary Care Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)

Lower UTI

Duration: 3 days

First line in Children >3 months old:

Cefalexin PO dosed as per BNF for Children

Or

Nitrofurantoin PO dosed as per BNF for Children

NOTES

Consider UTI in any sick child and every young child with unexplained fever. Children with fever >38°C, flank pain / tenderness, or systemic features should be treated as having an upper UTI.

Treatment decisions should be delayed until urine culture results are available for children who have no specific symptoms for UTI, who have negative dipstick tests for both nitrite and leukocyte esterase, and who are low / intermediate risk for severe illness.

[NICE provides guidance on diagnosis and management of UTI in the <16s.](#)

Nitrofurantoin does not achieve therapeutic serum or tissue levels and is only used for treatment of uncomplicated lower UTI.

It is not an appropriate agent for upper or bacteraemic UTI.

Upper UTI

Duration: 10 days

First line in Children >3 months old:

Co-amoxiclav PO dosed as per BNF for Children

NOTES

[NICE provides guidance on diagnosis and management of UTI in the <16s.](#)

Consider UTI in any sick child and every young child with unexplained fever. Children with fever >38°C, flank pain / tenderness, or systemic features should be treated as having an upper UTI. **Always consider hospital admission for children with upper UTI / pyelonephritis.**