### Pediatric Pharmacotherapeutics 2022: Children Are Not Little Adults!

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### Objectives

- Upon completion of this program, the participant will be able to:
  - Identify ways in which children are different than adults in terms of pharmacotherapeutics

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- ► Discuss common pediatric prescribing errors
- Discuss strategies to prevent pediatric prescribing errors
- Identify medications with new pediatric approvals

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### Disclosures

- Speaker Bureau:
  - Sanofi-Pasteur, Merck, Pfizer: Vaccines
  - AbbVie and Biohaven: Migraines
  - ► Idorsia: Insomnia
- ► Consultant:
  - ▶ Sanofi-Pasteur, Merck, Pfizer, Moderna, and Seqirus: Vaccines
  - ► GlaxoSmithKline: OA and Pain
  - ► Bayer: Chronic Kidney Disease
  - ► Idorsia: Insomnia
  - ► Shield Therapeutics: Iron Deficiency Anemia

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### Why are we here today?

- 200,000 medication errors are reported to U.S. poison-control centers; approximately 30% of these errors involve children
- Dosing errors constitute the biggest errors
- ► Why are there issues:
  - Most medications used in the care of children are formulated and packaged primarily for adults.
  - Most health care settings are primarily built around the needs of adults.
  - Children—especially young, small and sick children—are usually less able to physiologically tolerate a medication error due to still developing renal, immune and hepatic functions
  - Many children, especially very young children, cannot communicate effectively to providers regarding any adverse effects that medications may be causing

https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/minimizing-medication-errors-inpediatric-patients accessed 01-20-2021

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### Medication development

- Until the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act (BPCA) and the Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA), most medications were not developed or even tested initially in children
  - There is no reliable formula to convert adult dosages to those which are safe or effective in children
  - When manufacturers do not test drugs in infants and children, it has led to disastrous results
    - Gray baby syndrome: chloramphenicol in children
    - Sulfonamide-induced kernicterus in newborns

Goodman, Louis S., Alfred Gilman, Joel G. Hardman, Alfred Goodman Gilman, and Lee E. Limbird, Goodman & Gilman's the pharmacological basis of therapeutics, 9th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Health Protessions Division, 1996. Print.

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### Pediatric studies and approvals • The Pediatric Research Equity Act

- (PREA) mandates that almost all new medicines be studied in children if pediatric use of the product is likely
- In addition, the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act (BPCA) opens the door for an additional 6 months of market exclusivity for sponsors that submit completed pediatric studies to the FDA

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/820978 accessed 07-01-2014

### FDA approval of medications in children

 25% of all of the drugs approved by the FDA have any specific indications for children Wright, 2022

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 In the past 10 years, 12% of all prescriptions written in the US were prescribed for children < 9 years of age</li>

Gutierrez, Kathleen, and Sherry F. Queener. Pharmacology for nursing practice. St. Louis: Mosby, 2003

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Pediatric Medication Errors

Children: Are they different?

- ► Children differ from adults:
  - ► Drug absorption
  - ▶ Distribution
  - ▶ Biotransformation
  - ► Excretion/Elimination

Gutierrez, Kathleen, and Sherry F. Queener. Pharmacology for nursing practice. St. Louis: Mosby, 2003

### Absorption

- Most orally administered medications are absorbed in the small intestine
  - Infants have proportionately larger small intestinal surface areas, this can lead to unpredictable absorption when compared with adults
- Infants also have increased intestinal motility, which alters the absorption of drugs with limited water solubility, such as phenytoin (Dilantin) and carbamazepine (Tegretol)

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### What about topical medications?

- Newborns and infants have greater skin absorption - due to increased hydration and thinner stratum corneum than adults
- Systemic toxicity can occur with relatively small amounts of topical application of medications such as diphenhydramine (Benadryl and many other products), lidocaine, corticosteroids and hexachlorophene (PhisoHex)
- Caution with prescribing topical medications



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### Actual examplePediatric studies led to relabeling of

- betamethasone dipropionate (Diprolene, Diprosone) and betamethasone dipropionateclotrimazole (Lotrisone)
  - ► These studies documented hypothalamic-adrenal axis suppression in 23% to 73% of pediatric patients depending on formulation used

Roberts R, Rodriguez W, Murphy D, Crescenzi T. Pediatric drug labeling: improving the safety and efficacy of pediatric therapies. JAMA. 2003;290:905-911.

### Children: Drug clearance pathways

- Most drug clearance pathways develop over the first year of life
  - Although not all pathway development is fully known in children, most develop by 1 year
  - ▶ For instance:
    - CYP1A2 pathway, studies were performed in children using caffeine which showed that by year one the pathway is developed.
    - Important: if drugs such as theophylline which also used this pathway are administered before 1 year, significant toxicity occurs
    - At puberty, clearance begins to decline

Goodman, Louis S., Alfred Gilman, Joel G., Hardman, Alfred Goodman Gilman, and Lee E. Limbird. Goodman & Gilman's the pharmacological basis of therapeutics. 9th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Health Professions Division, 1996. Print.

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### Important take away

- 7 day neonate will be very different from a pharmacokinetic perspective than a newborn
- The dosage that is appropriate for a 10 year old may be an overdose for a 16 year old
- All dosages need to be checked for age and weight repeatedly



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What Medications Are Involved in Most Pediatric Outpatient Prescribing Errors?

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Reasons for errors: Recommended doses can differ			
Source	Recommended pediatric dose for oxycodone		
Harriet Lane Handbook	0.2 to 0.9 mg/kg/day q 4-6 hours		
HMO Formulary	No weight-based dose provided.		
Children's Hospital Formulary	0.2 to 1.6 mg/kg/day q 3-4 hours		
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### General techniques to avoid prescribing errors

- Clear writing and documentation
   EHR, if available
- Double check dosages
- Avoid writing RX's when patient is talking to you or sitting in front of you

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- Have a list of high-risk medications; when you see this list bells should go off in your head
- Double check interactions



### Additional elements of safe prescription writing

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► Include diagnosis on prescription

- Many prescriptions now enable provider to write kg or weight on RX
- Never write a prescription without a 0 or number before the decimal point ► For instance: 0.5 milligrams

Never put a zero after a decimal point

- ▶ For instance: 10 milligrams NOT 10.0 mg
- Always calculate out the amount of the total medication needed
- ► This serves as a double check system
- 10 mL two times daily x 10 days = 200 MI
- Do not write quantity sufficient

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Pediatric Medication Adherence

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### Factors affecting medication adherence ► Frequency of dosing

- Palatability
- Route of administration Cost
- Administration instructions

### Adherence to Medication Regimens

- Adherence to a regimen decreases as the frequency of a drug increases
  - In an NIH published trial, mean dose-taking compliance was 71% +/- 17% (range, 34%-97%) and declined as the number of daily doses increased
  - ▶ For instance: 1 dose = 79% +/- 14%, 2 doses = 69% +/-15%, 3 doses = 65% +/- 16%, 4 doses = 51% +/- 20% (P < 0.001 among dose schedules)</p>
  - Compliance was significantly higher for once-daily versus 3-times-daily (P = 0.008), once-daily versus 4times-daily (P < 0.001), and twice-daily versus 4-timesdaily regimens (P = 0.001)

Claxton, A. J., Cramer, J., & Pierce, C. (2001). A systematic review of the associations between dose regimens and medication compliance. Clinical Therapeutics, 23(8), 1296-1310.

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### Children: Palatability

- Another issue which significantly affects medication utilization in children is taste and palatability
- This is more so in pediatrics than any other age group

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### Flavoring is routinely available

- In general, the following medications have poor taste
  - Penicillins
  - Prednisone
  - Clindamycin
  - ► Azithromycin
  - Trimethoprim/sulfamethosazole
- Better tasting:
  - ► Cephalosporins

### Length of Prescriptions

 Increasing trend to decrease length of prescriptions Wright, 2022

Recent studies have shown that for most conditions in children, shorter courses may provide same benefits, often with fewer side effects and better adherence

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### Cough and cold medications in children

Public Health Advisory: FDA Recommends that Over-the-Counter (OTC) Cough and Cold Products not be used for Infants and Children under 2 Years of Age



http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/postmarketdrugsafetyinform ationforpatientsandproviders/drugsafetyinformationforheathcarepr ofessionals/publichealthadvisories/ucm051137.htm accessed 07-01-2014

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### Acetaminophen vs. Ibuprofen vs. Aspirin

- Acetaminophen dosage:
  - 10-15 mg/Kg/dose q 4-6 hours
  - Max 5 doses in 24 hours
- Ibuprofen dosage:
  - ► 5-10 mg/Kg/dose q 6-8 hours
  - Max OTC dosing 40 mg/Kg/day OR 1.2 Gm/day
- What about aspirin?
  - ► NONE < 19 YEARS DUE TO RISK OF REYE'S SYNDROME
  - ► Keep in mind that many products contain
- salicylates http://www.aafp.org/afp/2009/1215/p1472.html accessed 07-01-2014

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### Stevens-Johnson Syndrome



#### FDA Warning/Regulatory Alert

Note from the National Guideline Clearinghouse: This guideline references a drug(s) for which important revised regulatory and/or warning information has been released.

August 1, 2013 - Acetaminophen ()<sup>2</sup>: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) notified healthcare professionals and
patients that acetaminophen has been associated with a risk of rare but serious skin reactions. Acetaminophen is a common
active ingredient to treat pain and reduce fever; it is included in many prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) products.
These skin reactions, known as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SLS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), and acute generalized
exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP), can be fatal. These reactions can occur with first-time use of acetaminophen or at any time
while it is being taken. Other drugs used to treat fever and pair/body aches (e.g., non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or
NSAIDS, such as iburgoften and paroxen) also carry the risk of causing serious skin reactions, which is already described in
the warnings section of their drug labels.

http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=38416&search=strep+pharyngitis Accessed 07-01-2014

### Specific Pediatric Conditions

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# Allergic rhinitis Many OTC medications are available Caution: First generation antihistamines Anticholinergic effects

- Sedation or agitation
- ▶ Tachycardia
- Dry mouth
- Urinary retention
- ► Examples:
  - Diphenhydramine
  - Chlorpheniramine



2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines: Clinician's Guide Wright

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https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/allpublications-and-resources/clinician-guide-2020focused-updates-asthma-management-guidelines

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- Each product has different flavoring; most taste terrible (consider flavoring)
  Most are available in 15 mg/SmL
  Dosage: 1 mg/kg/day 2 mg/kg/day
  Split dosing in children is preferred
  Length 3-10 days
  Average: 5-7 days
  No taper necessary
- Dosage & effect equivalent between prednisolone (liquid) and prednisone (tablets)









### AAP Updated Guidelines

- ► Diagnosis of AOM:
  - ► Evidence: 1A
    - Moderate severe bulging of TM with otalgia
      OR...new otorrhea NOT due to otitis externa with otalgia

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- ► Evidence: 1B
  - Mild bulging of TM and....
  - Recent ( < 48 hours) onset of ear pain or....</li>
  - Intense erythema of TM with otalgia

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### Who Needs Antimicrobials

- ► Any child < 6 months of age
- ► Any child with severe AOM
- Any child < 24 months of age with bilateral AOM</p>
- Any child in whom follow-up can not be ensured



### AAP Updated Guidelines (cont.)

► Treatment options:

► Amoxicillin: first line

▶ Provided that: no antibiotics in previous 30 days and

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- $\blacktriangleright$  No purulent conjunctivitis and
- ▶ Not allergic to PCN

http://www.google.com/#sclient=psyab&q=guidelines+on+AOM&oq=guidelines+on+AOM& gs =>serp.3.0i22i3012.1956.5384.0.5749.19.13.1.5.5.0.127.1021.11j2.13.0...0.0...1c.1.11.psyab.8e640vy70iU&pbx=1&bav=on.2.or.r\_qf.&fp=a7cbcbf4ec25b454&biw=1240&bih=556 accessed 05-01-2013

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### AAP Updated Guidelines (cont.)

- ► Treatment options:
  - Amoxicillin/clavulanate
    - ► Child who has received antibiotics in previous 30 days OR....
    - ► Has concurrent purulent conjunctivitis OR....
    - ► History of AOM which is unresponsive to amoxicillin

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#### Initial Immediate or Delayed Antibiotic Treatment Recommended First line Treatment (if Penicillin Allergy)

		(
	Amoxicillin (80-90 mg/kg/day) in two divided doses OR	Cefdinir (14 mg/kg/day) in one – two divided doses Cefuroxime (30 mg/kg/day) in two divided doses
	Amoxicillin/clavulanate (90 mg/kg/day or amoxicillin) with 6.4 mg/kg/day of clavulanate) in two divided doses	Cefpodoxime (10mg/kg/day) in two divided doses Ceftriaxone (50 mg/kg/day IM or IV) daily for 1 or 3 days
http://www.google.com/#sclient=psyab&q=guidelines+on+AOM&oq=guidelines+on gs_l=serp.3.0i22i30l2.1956.5384.0.5749.19.13.1.5.5.0.127.1021.11j2.13.00.0lc. ab.8c640vy70iU&pbx=1&bav=on.2,orr_qf.&fp=a7cbebf4ec25b454&biw=1240&bi accessed 05-01-2013		delines+on+AOM&oq=guidelines+on+AOM& ,1.5.5.0.127.1021.11j2.13.00.01c.1.11.psy- =a7cbcbf4ec25b454&biw=1240&bih=556



### Antibiotic Treatment After 48-72 hours of Failure of Initial Antibiotic

Recommended First line Treatment	Alternative Treatment (if Penicillin Allergy)	
Amoxicillin/clavulanate (90 mg/kg/day or amoxicillin) with 6.4 mg/kg/day of clavulanate) in two divided doses	Ceftriaxone 3 day Clindamycin (30 – 40 mg/kg/day) in three divided doses with or without concomitant third generation cephalosporin	
Ceftriaxone (50 mg/kg/day IM or IV) for 3 days http://www.google.com/#sclient=psyab&q=guid	Clindamycin (30 – 40 mg/kg/day) in three divided doses with concomitant third generation cephalosporin Tympanocentesis Consult specialist telines+ontAOM&oq=guidelines+on+AOM&	
Lgs_l=serp.3.022i30l2.1956.5384.0.5749.19.13[1.5.5.0.127.1021.11j2.13.00.01c.1.11.pr ab.8e640vy70iU&pbx=1&bav=on.2.or.r_qf.&fp=a7cbcbf4ec25b454&biw=1240&bih=556		
accessed 05-01-2013		

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### Remember...

- ► For children with OM and tympanostomy tubes:
  - You may also utilize topical medications
  - Ofloxacin (Floxin Otic) 0.3% solution
    - ► Age 1 12 years: 5 drops into affected ear bid x 10 days
  - Ciprofloxacin (Ciprodex):
    - ▶ 6 months and up: 4 drops into the affected ear bid x 7 days

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# Otitis Media with Effusion Fluid in the middle ear No signs and symptoms of AOM Air fluid levels Dullness of TM Decreased movement of TM

http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/113/5/1412 accessed 02-01-2010

















### Treatment of Acute Bacterial Rhinosinusitis

- Nonpharmacologic Therapies
  - Increased water intake
  - Intranasal saline irrigations with either physiologic or hypertonic saline are recommended as an adjunctive treatment in adults with ABRS<sup>1</sup>

<u>http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/03/20/cid.cir1043.full.pdf+html</u> Accessed 12-29-2012 Wright, 2022

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<sup>1</sup>http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/03/20/cid.cir1043.full.pdf+html Accessed 12-29-2012 Wright, 2022

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### Important Changes

- Macrolides (clarithromycin and azithromycin) are not recommended due to high rates of resistance among S. pneumoniae (30%)
- TMP/SMX is not recommended due to high rates of resistance among both S. pneumoniae and H. influenzae (30%–40%)
- Second and third-generation cephalosporins are no longer recommended due to variable rates of resistance among S. pneumoniae.

http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/03/20/cid.cir1043.full.pdf+html accessed 12-29-2012 Wright, 2022

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### Length of treatment

- The recommended duration of therapy for uncomplicated ABRS in adults is 5–7 days
- In children with ABRS, the longer treatment duration of 10–14 days is still recommended

http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/03/20/cid.cir1043.full.pdf+html Accessed 12-29-2012 Wright, 2022







- ► Amoxicillin alone or in combination with clavulanate is the first-line antibiotic choice
  - ► Length of treatment: 5-7 days
- Children with hypersensitivity to amoxicillin (type 1 and non-type 1):

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 cefdinir (Omnicef), cefuroxime (Ceftin), or cefpodoxime (Cefdinir)

<u>AAP Releases Guideline on Diagnosis and Management of Acute Bacterial Sinusitis</u> in Children One to 18 Years of Age - Practice Guidelines – <u>American Family Physician (aafp.org)</u> accessed 11-28-2020

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### Pharyngitis

- ▶Epidemiology
  - ► Group A Beta Hemolytic Strep
    - ► Most interest because of its association with severe complications

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► Peritonsillar abscesses, rheumatic fever, post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis - complications

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## Miscellaneous Pediatric Prescribing

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### Miscellaneous

- Albuterol inhalers
  - All contain 200 inhalations
  - Well-controlled patients should need < 1</p>

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- inhaler per year
- Closely monitor utilization of these inhalers

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### Herbal preparations

- Resurgence of usage of herbal or complementary therapies
  - N-acetyl-methoxytryptamine (Melatonin)
  - Hypericum (St. John's Wort)
  - Echinacea purpurea (Echinacea)
- ► Significant number of drug/drug interactions
- Many are unsafe in pediatrics
  - Hypericum (St. John's Wort) interacts with a significant number of other medications
  - ► CYP3A4 inducer









### Ivermectin

Ivermectin 0.5% lotion (Sklice)

 Now approved OTC for children 6 months of age and older with head lice Wright, 2022

Does not require combing of nits

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#### Minocycline topical (Amzeeq) • First topical minocycline product for the treatment of moderate - severe acne in individuals 9 years of age and older • Available as a foam - 4% • Do not use < 9 years of age (bone growth and

- Do not use < 9 years of age (bone growth and tooth discoloration)
- Apply to the skin 1 hour prior to bed
  - Do not shower or wash off after application

https://druginserts.com/lib/rx/meds/amzeeq-1/ accessed 01-30-2020

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#### Minocycline topical Avoid in pregnancy or lactation TCNs can cross the placenta when taken orally Warnings/side effects Hepatotoxicity has been reported with oral TCN Photosensitivity Tissue hyperpigmentation Headache (3%) vs. 2% of subjects treated with placebo (most common side effect) Cost: \$592.00 for 1 month https://druginserts.com/lib/rx/meds/amzeeq-1/ accessed 01-30-2020

### Additional Approval

► Liraglutide (Victoza): approved for Type 2 diabetes in children: ≥ 10 years of age

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 Duloxetine (Cymbalta): approved for fibromyalgia in individuals 13 years of age and older

https://www.fda.gov/media/143552/download accessed 01-20-2021

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# New Approvals Tofacitinib (Xeljanz) for patients 2 years and older with active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis marking the first Janus kinase inhibitor approved for use in children This is an oral treatment In May, the FDA approved Solifenacin succinate (Vesicare) for patients 2 years of age and older with bladder dysfunction due to neurogenic detrusor overactivity

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### Glucopyrronium (Qbrexza)

 Treatment of primary axillary hyperhidrosis in children 9 years of age and older and adults Wright, 2022

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- Single-use cloth
- Anti-cholinergic
- Apply once every 24 hours to axillary regions

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#### New

- Secnidazole (Solosec)
  - Approved for the treatment of trichomoniasis
  - 2 grams as a single dose
  - ► ALSO, NEW APPROVAL -
    - 12 years of age and older for BV and trichomoniasis
- Azelastine hydrochloride nasal spray, 0.15% approved for OTC sales; individuals 6 and older

https://www.empr.com/home/news/single-dose-solose--approved-fartrichomoniasis/Pulm\_source-newsletter&um\_medium-emailsulm\_compaign=mpr-dailydose-hay-20210718&pcn=harsbidle14560459(%) thatmeniasima/br20/DG070Ed4yL\_fndfCgcgfQ&ND=1346274941&c\_jd=& email\_hash=c390667946716c8790557377ce89c71c&d=0&mpweb=1323-142847-1047198 accessed 07-17-2021

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### Hexavalent Pediatric Vaccine Approved

► Vaxelis:

- ► diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis adsorbed, inactivated poliovirus, haemophilus b conjugate [meningococcal protein conjugate] and hepatitis B [recombinant] vaccine
  - Active immunization in children aged 6 weeks through 4 years (prior to the 5th birthday)
  - $\blacktriangleright$  3-dose series given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age
- ► It may be used to complete the hepatitis B series
- The 3-dose series does not constitute a primary immunization series against pertussis; an additional dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is needed to complete the primary series

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Thank You! I Appreciate Your Attention!

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