

Galway: GAPP - Galway Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy / Guidelines (GAPP): Suspected Meningococcaemia (without features of meningitis)

Suspected Meningococcaemia (without features of meningitis)

1. Discussion with Microbiology or Infectious Diseases recommended.
2. When infection with susceptible *N. meningitidis* is confirmed, therapy with **Benzylpenicillin** alone is appropriate.
3. **Chloramphenicol** is available in the Emergency Department and in the Pharmacy Department. **Meropenem** may be an alternative to chloramphenicol in patients with a history of penicillin anaphylaxis, as recommended in Irish guidelines, with close monitoring for cross-sensitivity e.g. in ICU.
4. See [Appendix 3](#) for management of contacts.

| Infection | 1 st Line Antibiotics | Penicillin allergy: | Penicillin allergy: | Comment |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| | | delayed onset non-severe reaction | immediate or severe delayed reaction | |
| | | See penicillin hypersensitivity section for further information | | |
| Suspected Meningococcaemia (without features of meningitis) | Ceftriaxone IV 2g every 12 hours | Ceftriaxone IV 2g every 12 hours | Give first dose Chloramphenicol IV 25mg/kg and IMMEDIATELY contact Microbiology or Infectious Diseases to discuss options. Discuss need for nasopharyngeal eradication for the patient with Microbiology or Infectious Diseases | Duration 7 days |