

Bon Secours Richmond Health System
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
2/2002

The MEC has approved the following:

- Autosubstitution of Primaxin for Merrem in patients with creatinine clearance ≥ 30 ml/min.
- The pharmacist will check the patient's indication and renal function before making the substitution.

Restrict the use of Meropenem to patients with estimated creatinine clearances less than 30 ml/min. Meropenem's spectrum is similar to Primaxin. Meropenem *may* have less potential for seizures in renal impairment.

The table below assumes use of Primaxin 250 mg vials and Merrem 500 mg vials when appropriate. Please order Primaxin 250 mg vials when needed as this is a very expensive medication to waste.

Merrem Ordered	Primaxin Substitute
1 gm q8h	0.25-1 gm q6h
1 gm q12h	250-500 mg q8h
0.5 gm q12h	250 mg q6-12h
0.5 gm q24h	250 mg q12h

Adult Dosage from Package Insert					
Clcr (ml/min) for Primaxin	Primaxin Dosage Weight ≥ 70 kg	Cost per day for highlighted dose/frequency	Clcr(ml/min) for Meropenem	Meropenem	Cost per day
Normal Renal Function	0.5-1 gm q6-8h	\$189.26	> 50	1 gm q8h	\$125.91
≥ 71	250- 500 mg q6h	\$94.63	> 50	1 gm q8h	\$125.91
41-70	250- 500 mg q8h	\$70.97	26-50	1 gm q12h	\$83.94
21-40	250 mg q6-12h	\$50.27	10-25	0.5 gm q12h	\$42.34
6-20	250 mg q12h	\$25.14	< 10	0.5 gm q24h	\$21.17
<5 ml/min & hemodialysis	250 mg q12h	\$25.14	<5 ml/min & hemodialysis	0.5 gm q12h (Microdexex)	\$42.34

Note equivalent doses for creatinine clearance may not be in the same row. Cost comparisons are for the bolded dose of Primaxin. Please consult the Primaxin insert or MicroMedex for renal dosing in patients weighing less than 70 kg.

As the dosage and frequencies may not be the same the pharmacist should write an order in the chart when changing to Primaxin.

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