

## Empiric antibiotic therapy for gram-negative and anaerobic pathogens

Regimen	Dose (adult)*
First choice	
Monotherapy with a beta-lactam/beta-lactamase inhibitor:	
Ampicillin-sulbactam*	3 g IV every six hours
Piperacillin- tazobactam <sup>∆</sup>	3.375 or 4.5 g IV every six hours
Ticarcillin-clavulanate	3.1 g IV every four hours
Combination third generation cephalosporin PLUS metronidazole:	
Ceftriaxone plus	1 g IV every 24 hours or 2 g IV every 12 hours for CNS infections
Metronidazole	500 mg IV every eight hours
Alternative empiric regimens	
Combination fluoroquinolone PLUS metronidazole:	
Ciprofloxacin or	400 mg IV every 12 hours
Levofloxacin plus	500 or 750 mg IV once daily
Metronidazole	500 mg IV every eight hours
Monotherapy with a carbapenem <sup>§</sup> :	
Imipenem-cilastatin	500 mg IV every six hours
Meropenem	1 g IV every eight hours
Doripenem	500 mg IV every eight hours
Ertapenem <sup>¥</sup>	1 g once daily

\* Antibiotic doses should be adjusted appropriately for patients with renal insufficiency or other dose-related consideration.

• 3 g ampicillin-sulbactam is equivalent to 2 g ampicillin with 1 g sulbactam. Δ Some clinicians use 4.5 g every eight hours for empiric therapy since the percent time above the MIC is similar between the regimens for most pathogens; however, this regimen is NOT recommended for nosocomial pneumonia or *Pseudomonas* coverage. See "Treatment of hospital-acquired, ventilator-associated, and healthcare-associated pneumonia in adults" and "Treatment of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infections".

 Fluoroquinolones are generally avoided in pregnant women due to potential fetal toxicity.

§ Use carbapenems cautiously in patients with immediate-type hypersensitivity to beta-lactams.

¥ Ertapenem lacks activity against acinetobacter and pseudomonas and is not a recommended choice for a severe or nosocomial infection.

