

Example prescribing scenario 1

A 16 year old girl presents to the GP unwell with a fever, headache and intolerance to light. She has no past medical history, other than developing a mild, non-specific rash after receiving amoxicillin for a sore throat as a child. Her temperature is 38.2°C, pulse rate 108 bpm, BP 103/76 mmHg, respiratory rate 22 breaths per minute and oxygen saturation 99% breathing air. She has a non-blanching, maculopapular rash on her trunk, neck stiffness and photophobia. She weighs 50 kg. An ambulance has been called.

Please prescribe the most appropriate immediate medication.

Accepted VSA answers:

Benzylpenicillin 1.2g intramuscular once only

Benzylpenicillin sodium 1.2g intramuscular once only

Example prescribing scenario 2

A 22 year old man has acute breathlessness. He has a known history of asthma for which he takes regular beclomethasone and theophylline, and salbutamol as required. His temperature is 36.5°C, pulse rate 95 bpm, BP 110/68 mmHg, respiratory rate 30 breaths per minute and oxygen saturation 94% breathing air. He is unable to complete sentences in one breath, and has a loud wheeze bilaterally. His peak flow is 35% of predicted. He is initially treated with supplementary oxygen, salbutamol via oxygen-driven nebuliser and hydrocortisone 100 mg intravenously. A combination of salbutamol and ipratropium is then given, however his symptoms fail to improve significantly. The intensive care unit has been called to review the patient. He weighs 70 kg.

Please prescribe the most appropriate next medication.

Accepted VSA answers:

Magnesium sulphate 1.2 – 2g intravenous over 20 minutes