

Table 2: Recommended antimicrobial treatment and post-exposure prophylaxis for pertussis, by age group

	DRUG	UNDER 1 MONTH	1-5 MONTHS	INFANTS (6 months and older) and CHILDREN	ADULTS
Primary Agents	Azithromycin (3-day course not yet approved for treatment of pertussis)	Recommended agent. 10 mg/kg per day in a single dose for 5 days (only limited safety data available)	10 mg/kg per day in a single dose for 5 days	10 mg/kg in a single dose on day 1 (maximum: 500 mg/day) then 5 mg/kg per day on days 2–5 (maximum: 250 mg/day)	500 mg in a single dose on day 1 then 250 mg per day on days 2–5
	Clarithromycin Not recommended for use in pregnant women	Not recommended (safety data unavailable)	15 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 7 days	15 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses (maximum: 1 g per day) for 7 days	1 g per day in 2 divided doses for 7 days Pregnancy category C
	Erythromycin	Not preferred. Erythromycin is associated with infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis. Use if azithromycin is unavailable; 40–50 mg/kg per day in 4 divided doses for 14 days	40–50 mg/kg per day in 4 divided doses for 14 days	40–50 mg/kg per day (maximum: 2 g per day) in 4 divided doses for 14 days	2 g per day in 4 divided doses for 14 days
Alternate Agent	Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole * For those not able to tolerate macrolides. Not recommended for use in pregnant or nursing women	Contraindicated for infants aged < 2 months (risk for kernicterus)	Contraindicated at age <2 months. For infants aged >2 months, TMP 8 mg/kg per day, SMZ 40 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days	TMP 8 mg/kg per day, SMZ 40 mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days (maximum: adult dose)	TMP 320 mg per day, SMZ 1,600 mg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days Pregnancy category C

* Trimethoprim sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMZ) can be used as an alternative agent to macrolides in patients aged > 2 months who are allergic to macrolides, who cannot tolerate macrolides, or who are infected with a rare macrolide-resistant strain of *B. pertussis*.

Source: MMWR 2005; 54:RR-14 (Note: Recommendations in the 2012 Red Book vary slightly from the table above.)