



CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Adult Antibiotic Wound Management for the Emergency Department

A guideline is intended to assist healthcare professionals in the choice of disease-specific treatments.

Clinical judgement should be exercised on the applicability of any guideline, influenced by individual patient characteristics. Clinicians should be mindful of the potential for harmful polypharmacy and increased susceptibility to adverse drug reactions in patients with multiple morbidities or frailty.

If, after discussion with the patient or carer, there are good reasons for not following a guideline, it is good practice to record these and communicate them to others involved in the care of the patient.

Version Number:	6
Does this version include changes to clinical advice:	Yes
Date Approved:	29 th August 2023
Date of Next Review:	31 st August 2026
Lead Author:	Ysobel Gourlay
Approval Group:	Antimicrobial Utilisation Committee

Important Note:

The Intranet version of this document is the only version that is maintained. Any printed copies should therefore be viewed as 'Uncontrolled' and as such, may not necessarily contain the latest updates and amendments.

Emergency Department Adult Antibiotic Wound Management Guidelines

Human or Animal Bite

Wound Management

1. Thorough wound toilet and debridement where necessary.
2. If human bite refer to GGC blood borne virus protocol (<https://rightdecisions.scot.nhs.uk/ggc-clinical-guideline-platform/adult-infection-management/blood-borne-viruses/bloodborne-viruses-testing-diagnosis-and-referral-209>)
Vaccines are no longer given in the community by GPs, to organise vaccination please complete this e form [Adult Non Routine Vaccinations \(office.com\)](#)
3. Consider tetanus status [Public Health England \(PHE\) Green book, chapter 30](#) p8-10

Clinically infected

Yes

No

1. Swab
2. Treat as per GG&C policy

Treatment / Prophylaxis:

ORAL Co-amoxiclav 625mg 8 hourly

Or if true penicillin allergy

ORAL Doxycycline 100mg 12 hourly
and

ORAL Metronidazole 400mg 8
hourly

Treatment
Duration 5 days

PROPHYLAXIS
Duration 3 days

For severe bites see GGC Infection
management guidelines

Antibiotic prophylaxis indicated if any of the following are present:

- Hand, wrist, foot, face , areas of poor circulation or genital wound
- Crush wound with devitalised tissue
- Previously sutured wounds
- Full thickness wounds involving tendons, ligaments and joints
- Immunosuppressed (including asplenia, decompensated liver disease, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, high dose steroids e.g. > 15mg/ day for > 2 weeks)
- Patients with prosthetic joints / heart valves
- Post Mastectomy
- Delayed presentation >8 hours (NB. Antibiotics are not required if the wound is > 2 days old and there are no signs of local or systemic infection)
- Pre-existent or resultant oedema of the affected area
- Moderate to severe bite (clear full thickness skin puncture or tissue loss)
- Cat bites that have broken the skin but not drawn blood, if the wound could be deep

Emergency Department Adult Antibiotic Wound Management Guidelines

Penetrating Abdominal Wounds

Clinically Infected

Yes or Surgical referral indicated

No

Antibiotics must be given if surgical referral indicated

Treatment:

IV Co-amoxiclav 1.2g 8 hourly

Oral switch:

Co-amoxiclav 625mg 8 hourly

Or if true penicillin allergy

Oral/ IV Co-trimoxazole 960 mg 12 hourly

And

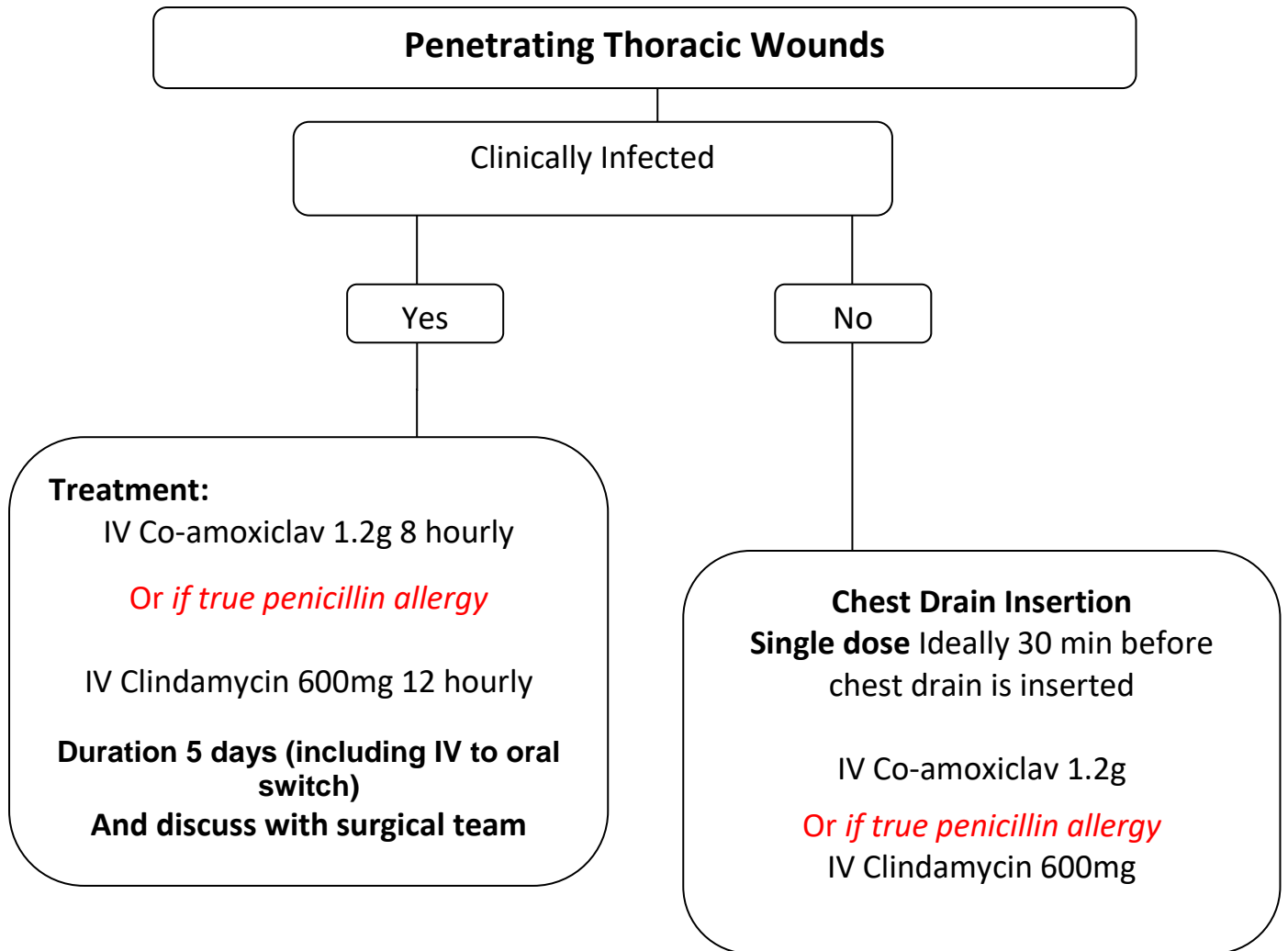
Oral metronidazole 500mg 8 hourly

Duration 5 days IV/PO but dependent on clinical review

Superficial wound only
Antibiotic Prophylaxis: Not recommended

Superficial wound infection (Senior Decision required)
Oral flucloxacillin 1000mg 6 hourly
Duration 5 days

Emergency Department Adult Antibiotic Wound Management Guidelines



- **Compound Fractures** see orthopaedic guidelines [Orthopaedic Surgical Prophylaxis \(218\) | Right Decisions \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)
- **Polytrauma**, antibiotics not routinely indicated.
- **Intercostal drains**; there is an NMSGC guideline [Chest Drain \(271\) | Right Decisions \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

References

1. [Recommendations | Human and animal bites: antimicrobial prescribing | Guidance | NICE](#), Nov 2020, accessed 26.06.2023