

IV is not Always the Answer



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Did you know? More recently, some serious adult and pediatric infections, once controlled with intravenous (IV) antibiotics, can be treated with oral (PO) therapy

Why is that important?

With PO therapy, patients may experience:

- Improved comfort/mobility
- Reduced complications
- Decreased length of stay
- Lower drug costs

What conditions limit use of PO medications?

- Absorption concerns (e.g., persistent vomiting)
- Physical ability (e.g., risk for aspiration)
- Disease severity (e.g., meningitis)

What patients are eligible?

- Taking PO medications or food/drink
- Improving infection
- No conditions limiting PO medication use

Who is responsible?

- **Pharmacists & prescribers** review patients for eligibility
- **Nurses** evaluate patients for improvement & PO intake
- **Child Life** helps patients learn to safely take PO medications
- **Families** participate by assuring PO medications are taken correctly at home

Click [here](#) to view Children's Mercy's IV to PO Therapeutic Interchange Policy

These antibiotics are well absorbed & should always be given PO if possible

Ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, azithromycin, metronidazole, clindamycin, linezolid, bactrim, fluconazole, doxycycline



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