




GENERAL DRUG SAFETY TIPS



How to read a drug label

Recommended dosing	Usual dose: Children, 20–40 mg per kg a day in three divided doses. Adults, 250 mg three times a day. See literature. Contains Cefaclor-Monohydrate up to 375 g anhydrous Cefaclor in a dry pleasantly flavored mixture.	75 mL (when mixed)	Pharmaceutical company
		LAWES	
Preparation instructions	Prior to mixing: Add 45 mL of water in two portions to the dry mixture in the bottle. Shake well after each addition.	BugAway	Drug name
		 For oral suspension USP	Route of administration
Storage requirements	Each 5 mL (approx. one teaspoonful) will then contain: Cefaclor-Monohydrate equivalent 250 mg anhydrous Cefaclor.	250 mg	Dosage per unit of measurement
	SHAKE WELL BEFORE USING Oversize bottle provides extra space for shaking. Store in a refrigerator. May be kept for 14 days without significant loss of potency. Keep tightly closed. Discard unused portion after 14 days.	per 5 mL	CAUTION: Federal (U. S. A.) law prohibits dispensing without prescription
	Lawes & Co., Lecturio, LPZ		

SAFETY TIPS

Nurses are responsible for ensuring that the ordered medication dose is within a safe and therapeutic range for the client. Always ensure the dose ordered by a provider is within the dosage range listed on the medication label.

Providing a safe dose of medication often requires calculating a dosage based off of a client's body weight.

Neonates and infants

Weighed in kilograms (kg)

Adults

Weighed in pounds (lb) or kilograms (kg)

Example: Determine if dose is appropriate

Label states:

Usual dose: Children, 20–40 mg per kg a day in three divided doses. Adults, 250 mg three times a day. See literature. Contains Cefaclor-Monohydrate equivalent to 375 g anhydrous Cefaclor in a dry, pleasantly-flavored mixture.

Order states:

Give 125 mg every 8 hours

? If the client weighs 10 kg, is this order a safe and therapeutic dose?

1. Determine the daily safe and therapeutic range for a 10-kg child:

$10 \times 20 = 200 \text{ mg}$ (lowest therapeutic dose) \longleftrightarrow $10 \times 40 = 400 \text{ mg}$ (highest safe range of medication)

For a 10-kg client, the safe and therapeutic range of this medication is 200–400 mg/day.

2. Determine the divided dosage, according to the order, for a 10-kg client:

1 day = 24 hours, 3 doses in a day = $24/3$, which is 1 dose every 8 hours
 $125 \text{ mg} \times 3$ (doses q 8 hours) = 375 mg in 1 day

For a 10-kg client, this order would provide 375 mg/day.

3. Determine if the ordered amount of medication falls within the safe and therapeutic range for a 10-kg client:

✓ 375 mg is within the safe and therapeutic range of 200–400 mg.

CLINICAL TIP

If the total daily dose is to be taken throughout the day, ensure equal intervals.

Morning: 50 mg
Afternoon: 50 mg
Night: 50 mg
= Total daily dose: 150 mg



PAY ATTENTION

When a medication is ordered in divided doses, make sure the total daily dose is within the stated safe therapeutic range on the label.

NURSING NOTE

Never cut enteric tablets. Do not open capsules to mix into food without provider or pharmacy approval.