

Cephalexin or Cefdinir for UTIs, which to choose?

Oral beta-lactams are used for a variety of urinary tract infections (UTIs).

Below you will find some facts to help guide your decision-making process.

Antibiogram

Cephalexin & Cefdinir have **equivalent** efficacy for UTI caused by *E coli*, *Klebsiella*, and *Proteus* species.

Average 90% coverage of 2022 UNCMC community urine E coli isolates (Outpatient & ED).



Risk of CDI

Cefdinir is associated with an **increased risk** of *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) compared to Cephalexin



Spectrum of Activity

Cephalexin is more **targeted** in spectrum compared to Cefdinir



Cost

Cefdinir dosage forms are routinely **2-3x more expensive*** than Cephalexin dosage forms

**Based on cash price estimates; insurance coverage may vary*



Contact CASP

If you have additional questions about management of a specific patient's UTI course, contact a member of CASP via Epic by messaging the group "CASP"



Cephalexin Dosing for Pediatric & Adult Patients with UTI

UTI Classification	Adult	Pediatrics
UTI with bladder symptoms only (i.e., cystitis)	500mg PO three times daily x5 days	50mg/kg/day PO divided two to three times daily x5 days (max = 500mg/dose)
UTI with systemic symptoms (i.e., pyelonephritis)	500mg PO three to four times daily x10-14 days	75mg/kg/day PO divided three times daily x10-14 days (max = 1000mg/dose)

Carolina Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (CASP)

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