

Severe SSTI in people who inject drugs: treatment overview

Read L → R	Appropriate regimen = 1 + 2 + 3		
	Pillar 1: Gram positive cover	Pillar 2: Gram negative cover	Pillar 3: Anaerobic cover
<u>FIRST LINE</u> Not allergic to penicillins	Benzylpenicillin IV 2.4g 6 hourly AND Flucloxacillin IV 2g 6 hourly	Gentamicin IV* as per gentamicin dosage guidelines	Metronidazole IV 500mg 8 hourly
<u>SECOND LINE</u> Penicillin allergy OR known colonisation with MRSA	Vancomycin IV as per vancomycin dosage guidelines		

*Patients with acute or chronic impairment of renal function and an eGFR <20 ml/min and those with decompensated alcoholic liver disease are at increased risk of adverse events with gentamicin. IV temocillin (adjusted to renal function) is a beta-lactam antimicrobial with a comparable breadth of gram negative cover which can replace gentamicin in these patient populations, **provided they do not have a history of penicillin allergy.**

Gentamicin must not be administered to patients with myasthenia gravis as it can precipitate a myasthenic crisis.