



Patient & Family Guide
2025

Cefazolin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis



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Cefazolin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis

What is cefazolin?

- Cefazolin is an **antibiotic medication**. Antibiotics treat infections caused by bacteria.
- Cefazolin is used to treat **peritonitis**. This is an infection in the peritoneum (lining of your abdominal cavity that holds and protects organs like your stomach and liver). If you have peritonitis, your Renal team may tell you to take cefazolin.
- Symptoms of peritonitis include:
 - › A cloudy bag
 - › Abdominal pain
 - › Fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F)
- **You will only start taking cefazolin if your Renal team tells you to.**
- Your Renal team will show you how to give yourself cefazolin through your peritoneal solution.

What are the possible side effects?

- Like any medication, cefazolin may cause side effects. These include:
 - › Headache
 - › Itchiness

- › Diarrhea (loose, watery poop). Talk to your health care provider if diarrhea does not go away, happens more often, or changes consistency (how thick or watery it is).
- In rare cases, cefazolin may cause an allergic reaction.

Call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Department right away if you have any of the following:

- › Wheezing or trouble breathing
- › Chest tightness
- › Hives
- › Itchy rash
- › Swelling of your lips or body
- › Feeling faint
- › Severe (very bad) diarrhea
- › Flu-like symptoms (fever or chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose)

How do I give myself cefazolin?

- You will give yourself cefazolin through your peritoneal solution once a day during a 6-hour **dwell**. This means the solution stays (dwells) in your peritoneal cavity for 6 hours.
- Cefazolin comes as a powder. It needs to be mixed with sterile water each day before it is added to your dialysis solution.

Mixing and adding cefazolin to a bag of solution

You will need:

- › Face mask
- › Cefazolin (1000 mg vial)
- › Sterile water
- › Syringes with needles (2 or more)
- › Solu-I.V.[™] swabs (2% chlorhexidine gluconate with 70% alcohol)

Instructions:

1. Your dose of cefazolin is _____ mg to be given through your peritoneal solution once a day during a 6-hour dwell.
2. Check the vial(s) of cefazolin for the correct name, strength, and expiry date.
3. Put on the face mask and wash your hands.
4. Open and check the bag of solution.
5. Remove caps from sterile water and cefazolin vial(s). Put a Solu-I.V.[™] swab on top of each vial and scrub for 30 seconds. Remove swabs and let the vials air dry.
6. Put a SOLU-I.V.[™] swab on the medication port of the bag of solution. Scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let the port air dry.
7. Open a 10 ml syringe with a needle. Twist the syringe together to tighten the needle.

8. Draw up 10 ml of air into the syringe.
9. Inject the air into the sterile water.
10. Draw up 10 ml of sterile water.
11. Inject the sterile water into the cefazolin vial **right away**. Remove the needle. Gently swirl the vial to mix until the powder is fully dissolved.
12. Put a new Solu-I.V.[™] swab on the cefazolin vial and scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let the vial air dry.
13. If you need a second cefazolin vial, repeat steps 6 to 11.
14. Using a new syringe, inject air into the cefazolin vial and draw up the mixed cefazolin **right away**. It should look clear, **not cloudy**.
15. **Vial 1:** Draw up _____ mg (dose), which is _____ ml (amount), of cefazolin and inject it into the medication port on the bag of solution **right away**.
16. **Vial 2 (if needed):** Draw up _____ mg (dose), which is _____ ml (amount), of cefazolin and inject it into the medication port on the bag of solution **right away**.
17. Mix by squeezing the port and turning the bag of solution upside down several times.

18. On your daily record sheet, write down the medication name (cefazolin), dose, and time/date given.
19. Repeat these steps once a day during a 6-hour dwell, as told by your Renal team.

Remember:

- Cefazolin should dwell for 6 hours.
- Mix the cefazolin right before your exchange, or as close as possible to it.
- 1 ml = 1 cc (Bottles are labelled with “ml” and syringes are labelled with “cc”.)
- **Only use the vial of sterile water 1 time.** Throw away the sterile water vial after using.
- Medication should always look clear when mixed with sterile water.
- Put used needles in a sharps container for disposal. **Do not** reuse syringes or needles.
- **Do not** reheat the bag of solution after adding the cefazolin.

Renal Dialysis Home Unit

› Phone: 902-473-2155

How do I store this medication?

- Store unopened cefazolin at room temperature away from light.

- After mixing and drawing up your dose of cefazolin, throw away the vial.
- **Do not** flush medications down the toilet or throw them out. Take any leftovers to a pharmacy for proper disposal.

If you have any questions about cefazolin, please talk to a member of your Renal team.

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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