

- After drawing up your dose of gentamicin or tobramycin, 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 gentamicin or tobramycin, please talk to a member of your Renal team.**

# Gentamicin or Tobramycin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis

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.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:  
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:  
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

*Prepared by:* Renal Program  
*Designed by:* Nova Scotia Health Library Services

WQ85-1820 © February 2025 Nova Scotia Health Authority  
To be reviewed February 2028 or sooner, if needed.

11. Draw up \_\_\_\_\_ mg (40 mg or 60 mg dose), which is \_\_\_\_\_ ml (amount), of gentamicin or tobramycin and inject it into the medication port on the bag of solution **right away. Never use more than 1 vial.**
12. Mix by squeezing the port and turning the bag of solution upside down several times.
13. On your daily record sheet, write down the medication name (gentamicin or tobramycin), dose, and time/date given.
14. Repeat these steps once a day during a 6-hour dwell, as told by your Renal team.

**Remember:**

- Antibiotic medications should dwell for 6 hours.
- 1 ml = 1 cc (Bottles are labelled with “ml” and syringes are labelled with “cc”.)
- Put used needles in a sharps container for disposal. **Do not** reuse syringes or needles.

**Renal Dialysis Home Unit**

> Phone: 902-473-2155

**How do I store this medication?**

- Store unopened gentamicin or tobramycin at room temperature away from light.

## Instructions:

1. Your dose of gentamicin or tobramycin is \_\_\_\_\_ mg (40 mg or 60 mg dose) to be given through your peritoneal solution once a day during a 6-hour dwell.
2. Check the vial of gentamicin or tobramycin for the correct name, strength, and expiry date.
3. Put on the face mask and wash your hands.
4. Gently swirl the vial to mix the gentamicin or tobramycin. It should look clear, **not cloudy**.
5. Open and check the bag of solution.
6. Remove the cap from the gentamicin or tobramycin vial. Put a Solu-I.V.<sup>™</sup> swab on top of the vial and scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let the vial air dry.
7. Put a SOLU-I.V.<sup>™</sup> swab on the medication port of the bag of solution. Scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let the port air dry.
8. Open a 10 ml syringe with a needle. Twist the syringe together to tighten the needle.
9. Draw up \_\_\_\_\_ ml of air into the syringe.
10. Inject the air into the medication vial.

# Gentamicin or Tobramycin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis

## What are gentamicin and tobramycin?

- Gentamicin and tobramycin are **antibiotic medications**. Antibiotics treat infections caused by bacteria.
- Gentamicin and tobramycin are 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 gentamicin or tobramycin.
- Symptoms of peritonitis include:
  - › A cloudy bag
  - › Abdominal pain
  - › Fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F)
- **You will only start taking gentamicin or tobramycin if your Renal team tells you to.**
- Your Renal team will show you how to give yourself gentamicin or tobramycin through your peritoneal solution.

## What are the possible side effects?

- Like any medication, gentamicin and tobramycin may cause side effects. In rare cases, these medications 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 (loose, watery poop)
- › Ringing or a full feeling in your ears, earache, hearing loss
- › Dizziness, loss of balance, unsteady walking

- These antibiotics may cause hearing loss, balance problems, or dizziness that never go away. This is rare and happens in less than 1 out of 100 people taking the medication for more than 10 days.

- If you need to take gentamicin or tobramycin for more than 14 days (2 weeks), you will have 2 hearing tests.
  - › The first test will be done before you start taking the medication.
  - › The second test will be done about 2 weeks after you start taking the medication.
- If you have hearing or balance problems, you will have more tests, as needed.

## How do I give myself gentamicin or tobramycin?

- You will give yourself gentamicin or tobramycin 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.

## Drawing up gentamicin or tobramycin and adding to a bag of solution

### You will need:

- › Face mask
- › Gentamicin or tobramycin (80 mg vial)
- › 3 ml syringes with needles (2 or more)
- › Solu-I.V.™ swabs (2% chlorhexidine gluconate with 70% alcohol)