

# The Medical Letter®

## On Drugs and Therapeutics

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## ADDENDUM

### Cost of Drugs for Acute Cystitis

A reader suggested that our July 23 article on Drugs for Urinary Tract Infection<sup>1</sup> should have included information on the cost of the drugs we recommended for treatment of acute uncomplicated cystitis.

**Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole DS** — Generic formulations are available at large discount pharmacies for \$4 for 20 tablets. Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole DS is generally found on tier 1 (lowest co-pay) of insurance company formularies.

**Nitrofurantoin monohydrate/macrocrystals** — The wholesale acquisition cost of the generic formulation is about \$2.50 per tablet.<sup>2</sup> The drug is on tier 1 of some insurance company formularies, but on tier 2 or 3 of others.

**Fosfomycin** — Available only as *Monurol*, a single dose of fosfomycin is effective in most cases of acute uncomplicated cystitis, but the manufacturer charges a wholesale acquisition cost of more than \$40 for that dose.<sup>2</sup> Most insurance companies place *Monurol* on tier 3 of their formularies, or do not include it on their formularies at all.

**Not recommended: Ciprofloxacin** — Fluoroquinolones should not be used empirically to treat acute uncomplicated cystitis. The fact that ciprofloxacin is available at large discount pharmacies for \$4 for 20 500-mg tablets and is on tier 1 on most insurance company formularies may be part of the reason for its continued overuse.

1. Drugs for urinary tract infection. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2012; 54:57.

2. PricePointRx™. Reprinted with permission by FDB. All rights reserved. ©2012. <http://www.firstdatabank.com/support/drug-pricing-policy.aspx>. Accessed July 31, 2012. Actual retail prices may be higher.

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