

# Applied Drug Therapy

## Example Homework Assignment

**Date Assigned:**

**Date Due:**

**Date Returned:**

A 6 month old female patient who weighs 15 lbs is brought in by her mother with a 3 day history of a low-grade fever, crying and inconsolability, and tugging at her right ear.

You make a diagnosis of acute otitis media and decide to treat her presumptively with trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (a.k.a. co-trimoxazole, Bactrim) 8 mg/kg/d (based on the trimethoprim content) in 2 divided doses daily. After looking in the PDR, you discover that co-trimoxazole is available as a suspension in concentrations of 40 mg/5 ml (again, based on the trimethoprim content).

### **Questions:**

1. What information about the child should you elicit from the parent before you write the prescription? (NOTE: It is not necessary to fill up every available square centimeter of white space). (10 points)

2. Using the form below, write the prescription for a 5 day course of co-trimoxazole, using the above information. (10 points)

<b>Primary Care Associates, Inc.</b> 1020 Wellness Road Resume Speed, KS (913) 123-4567	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Address</b>	
<b>City/State/Zip</b>	<b>Age/Wt</b> /
<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 20px;">Rx</div>	
Dispense as Written	Substitution Permitted
Refills	DEA #





3. What instructions should you give the mother regarding this prescription? (5 points)

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## Example Homework - Key

1. What information about the child should you elicit from the parent before you write the prescription? (You may use the other side if you need more room) **(10 points)**

NOTE: These are answers that are TYPICAL of the type that I'm looking for. Use your judgement when awarding points.

- 
 Has the patient been treated in the past for otitis media? If so, with which antibiotics? What has been the result?
- 
 Has the patient exhibited any allergic or adverse effects from antibiotics (penicillins in particular) in the past? If so, what were they and how severe were they?
- 
 Is the child currently receiving any other medications? If so, what and for what reason?
- 
 Will the child be able to consistently receive 3 doses of medication daily for the next 5 days?

2. Using the form below, write the prescription using the above information (10 points)

<b>Primary Care Associates, Inc.</b> 1020 Wellness Road Resume Speed, KS (913) 123-4567	
<b>Name</b> Any name will do	<b>Date</b> 9/14/99
<b>Address</b>	
<b>City/State/Zip</b>	<b>Age/Wt</b> 6mo/15lbs
Co-Trimoxazole Suspension (40 mg TMX/5ml)  Disp: 50 ml  Sig: Give 3.4 ml po bid x 5 days	
Dispense as Written	Signature
Refills	Substitution Permitted DEA #

## Prescription Notes:

The drug name may either be written as Bactrim, Septra, co-trimoxazole, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, or TMP-SMX.

- 🏠 The dose should be written in milliliters (since this is what the parent is going to measure), not in milligrams. The actual dose is 3.4 ml, but I'll accept anything in between 3 and 4 ml.
- 🏠 Make sure that all of the components of the Rx are present.
- 🏠 If the dose is clearly incorrect, GIVE NO CREDIT!
- 🏠 I chose a 5 day course of therapy (Approx 40 ml. Make sure that the amount to be dispensed is consistent with the course of therapy (e.g. 7 days). Since the smallest prepackaged dose of Bactrim Suspension is 100 ml, I'll accept that. If 50 ml is written for, that's OK too. But certainly no less than is will cover a 5 day course (allowing for spillage, etc). The amount dispensed doesn't have to be exact.

3. What instructions should you give the mother regarding this prescription?(Use other side)

### **(5 points) – Use your judgement in awarding points here**

- 🏠 This is \_\_\_\_\_, an antibiotic for your child's ear infection.
- 🏠 The dose is 3.4 ml given by mouth three times daily for 5 days. Let's make sure that you know how to measure the dose and administer it. It's best if it can be given on an empty stomach but, if that's impossible, that's OK.
- 🏠 It's important that you continue to administer the antibiotic for the entire course of therapy, even if your child appears to be getting better.
- 🏠 You can expect to see some improvement within a day or 2. If you do not see improvement within 3 days or so, or if the child appears to be getting worse, call me.
- 🏠 The most common side effects of this medication are rash and diarrhea. If the child develops a rash but doesn't have any other symptoms, continue to give the medication and just observe.
- 🏠 However, if the child develops hives or swelling of the lips or tongue, stop the drug and bring the child in immediately.
- 🏠 If diarrhea develops, its best if you don't treat it with antidiarrheals. It will clear when the antibiotic is stopped. However, if it's severe, contains blood, or is causing dehydration, contact me immediately.
- 🏠 Do YOU have any questions