

Table 11. Suggested Route, Setting, and Duration of Antibiotic Therapy, by Clinical Syndrome

Site of Infection, by Severity or Extent	Route of Administration	Setting	Duration of Therapy
Soft-tissue only			
Mild	Topical or oral	Outpatient	1–2 wk; may extend up to 4 wk if slow to resolve
Moderate	Oral (or initial parenteral)	Outpatient/inpatient	1–3 wk
Severe	Initial parenteral, switch to oral when possible	Inpatient, then outpatient	2–4 wk
Bone or joint			
No residual infected tissue (eg, postamputation)	Parenteral or oral	...	2–5 d
Residual infected soft tissue (but not bone)	Parenteral or oral	...	1–3 wk
Residual infected (but viable) bone	Initial parenteral, then consider oral switch	...	4–6 wk
No surgery, or residual dead bone postoperatively	Initial parenteral, then consider oral switch	...	≥3 mo