In 2007, only 8% of the estimated 1 800 000 children (0 - 14 years) living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART). Coverage will need to be expanded greatly if the goal of providing ART to 80% of children in need by 2010 is to be met. Moreover, recent evidence highlights early initiation of ART as particularly critical for infants with HIV. Clinical guidelines issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) now recommend immediate initiation of ART for all HIV-infected infants.

Paediatric ART management involves a complex process of interactions between patients, families, health care providers and the antiretrovirals (ARVs) themselves. Barriers to the delivery of effective treatment occur both within the health care system and in the home. These include delayed diagnosis, limited availability of health care providers trained in paediatric ART, few available paediatric ARV formulations, complicated regimens and dosing schedules, and poor palatability of some ARVs. Difficulties in the home include overcrowding, difficult work schedules of the parents and the stresses associated with parental disclosure in the home. Unlike adults, children require changes in antiretroviral dose as they grow and become older, and rely upon adult caregivers to administer medicines.

Children have traditionally been dosed according to body surface area (BSA) (e.g. zidovudine (AZT), didanosine (ddI), lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/r)), weight (mg/kg) (e.g. stavudine (d4T), lamivudine (3TC), abacavir (ABC), nevirapine (NVP)) or dose per weight band (efavirenz (EFV)). Manufacturers’ recommendations for some ARV drugs (e.g. LPV/r) include both BSA and weight-based dosing methods. The calculation of BSA generally requires accurate measurement of the child’s weight and length or height (ideally with a stadiometer or measuring box), and a normogram or mathematical formula (e.g. Mosteller formula). For both BSA and mg/kg weight-based dosing approaches, the calculated dose of each ARV drug must be rounded up or down as a ‘best-fit’ dosage according to which solid or liquid formulations of the ARV drug are available. This may lead to confusion and uncertainty on the part of the prescriber.

In resource-limited settings (RLS), primary care doctors and nurses rather than paediatricians are responsible for the majority of paediatric ART initiation and follow-up. Lack of accurate measuring equipment and the relative complexity of BSA dosing may inhibit initiation of ART in infants and young children or mean that inappropriate doses are given. While the most ‘accurate’ dosing may be obtained with the use of liquid formulations, large volumes of solutions (which may require refrigeration, e.g. d4T solution) may be challenging for caregivers to administer to young children, particularly if palatability is poor (e.g. LPV/r).

ART simplification strategies are required to help health care providers manage ART in children, and to help caregivers and children adhere to therapy. Interventions include the use of adult or preferably paediatric fixed-dose combinations (FDCs), selection of doses based on weight band rather than individual mg/kg or BSA doses, prescription of pills or capsules rather than liquids, and identification of reliable once-daily regimens.

**MOVING FROM BSA AND WEIGHT-BASED DOSING APPROACHES TO WEIGHT-BAND DOSAGE TABLES**

Weight-band dosage tables assist health care providers by assigning a fixed dose of medication for a particular weight range (e.g. 1.5 ml of LPV/r solution for children weighing 4 – 9.9 kg, or half a 150 mg 3TC tablet for children weighing 14 – 19.9 kg). In large public sector...
treatment programmes, tables can reduce the time and risk of dosing errors involved in calculating multiple ARV doses by weight or BSA. They can also facilitate easier checking of doses against weight gain by clinicians, nurses, pharmacists or adherence counsellors. Under-dosing of ARVs, due in part to a lack of regular dose adjustments for ongoing growth, has been described in a large cohort of children in the UK and Ireland. A study in Thailand found that 17 of 18 doctors using a standardised drug dosage table avoided miscalculations and reported more confidence with prescriptions.

In 2006, the WHO published simplified weight-band dosing tables on all ARV drugs for which there were available paediatric indications, formulations or sufficient information and evidence to provide guidance on prescribing and doses. Decisions about dosing were based upon manufacturers' information, ARV formulation choices, available data from clinical studies and expert paediatric pharmacology consultation. What was considered to be the 'optimal' dose for a particular weight band, given the limitations imposed by currently available drug formulations, was selected. Weight-band doses were determined by using BSA values calculated from median height-for-weight from international growth charts using the following formula: BSA = square root \([\text{weight (kg)} \times \text{height (cm)})/3600\].

The dosing tables are directed at RLS and are based on the following principles:

1. It is preferable to use one formulation or fixed combination of any given drug(s).
2. Syringes or other standardised devices of various sizes should be available to support accurate dosing of liquid formulations.
3. Large volumes of liquid or syrup formulations should be avoided where possible.
4. In general, children should be switched to available solid formulations as soon as possible or as soon as they are tolerated.
5. If liquids or syrups are difficult because of storage, large volumes required or palatability, solid dosage formulations are preferable.
6. If solid formulations of first-line and second-line drugs developed for children are unavailable, solid formulations currently used for adults can be used.
7. Many tablets, but not all, may be divided in half but not beyond as drug content cannot be guaranteed. Scored tablets are more easily split. Some tablets cannot be split, and the WHO recommends that where possible tablet splitting be done in the dispensing pharmacy using appropriate tablet cutters.
8. Some adult FDCs may result in under-dosing of individual components in children. This is of concern, particularly with drugs such as NNRTIs and 3TC where there is a low threshold for resistance. NVP requires a ‘lead-in’ dosage. During the first 2 weeks, therefore rather use individual components of the regimen.
9. Different dosing between a.m. and p.m. should be avoided where possible. However, in order to keep all regimens to no more than twice daily, there are instances where different quantities of solid dosage forms can be administered a.m. as opposed to p.m.
10. The doses in the tables are presented in weight bands, accepting that some deviation from target dosing will occur.
11. Children have to be weighed at each clinic visit, and dose changes are required as children grow and/or gain weight.
12. When capsules are opened or tablets dissolved or crushed and added to food or liquid, it is important that the entire volume/amount of vehicle be taken to ensure administration of the full dose.

The dosing tables are based on standardised weight bands starting from 5 kg body weight for the individual ARV drugs (excluding EFV, which starts from 10 kg) and 10 – 14 kg for the fixed-dose combinations (AZT + 3TC, d4T + 3TC, AZT + 3TC + ABC, d4T + 3TC + NVP). The weight bands are in 1 kg divisions from 5 to 11 kg, and 2 – 5 kg divisions from 12 to 35 or 40 kg.

ADAPTING WEIGHT-BAND DOSING TABLES FOR DIFFERENT SETTINGS

Dosing tables may be adapted according to the specific drug formulations available to a regional or national treatment programme. For example, dual (d4T + 3TC) or triple (d4T or AZT + 3TC + NVP) FDCs play an important role in paediatric ART in many countries (e.g. Thailand and many African countries), but are not widely used in South Africa. Satisfactory early clinical and immunological outcomes have been described following the use of fractions of generic adult FDCs in children dosed according to a weight-band table method in Thailand.

In another project, a visual dosing aid (VDA) incorporating coloured dosing bands for five first-line ARV drugs was developed to assist clinicians in prescribing paediatric ART consisting of syrups, generic adult tablets or a combination. It compared well with generic paediatric FDC tablets and could help facilitate paediatric ART roll-out in RLS.

The South African national guidelines for the management of HIV-infected children (2005) incorporate a weight-band dosing chart developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a number of international paediatric AIDS programmes.
prior to the more widespread availability of FDCs. BSA
dosing recommendations were converted to weight-
band doses using approximations of weight-for-age
and height-for-age derived from standardised growth
charts of girls from birth to 36 months and 20 years in
the USA (National Center for Health Statistics). Dose
for each weight band was based on the practicality of
the available dosage forms for each drug, and practi-
cal storage and dosing instructions were included with
the chart. The chart lacks dose recommendations for
children weighing less than 5 - 7 kg and for HIV-TB
coinfections.

The Western Cape Antiretroviral Drug Dosing Chart for
Children (2007), based on the 2006 WHO recommenda-
tions, was developed by the author and colleagues as
a pilot project for the HIV Directorate of the Western
Cape (South Africa) provincial health department. The
chart was directed at both clinicians and pharmacists
involved in prescribing and dispensing ART for children,
and it was successfully piloted at a number of HIV clin-
ics before being distributed across the province. It was
produced as a laminated A4 colour copy. Standard
first- and second-line ART regimens (including regi-
mens compatible with rifampicin-based TB treatment)
as well as general comments relating to storage, ad-
ministration and common drug interactions and side-
effects of the individual ARV drugs were printed on the
reverse side. Only ARV formulations available at public
sector treatment facilities were included (no FDCs were
available), and there was an emphasis on the early in-
troduction of solid formulations where possible. Fra-
ctions of tablets (not less than half a tablet) were only
incorporated for scored tablets. The target dose in mg/
kg or mg/m² for each drug as well as the formula for
calculating BSA was included to facilitate comparison
of dosing methods when necessary.

The following local practices were incorporated:
1. The off-label ‘opened capsule’ d4T dosing method
whereby a d4T capsule is opened and the pow-
der contents dispersed in a standardised volume
of water and the required dose drawn up with a
syringe and administered to the child (e.g. to ad-
minister a standardised d4T dose of 10 mg for the
weight bands 7 - 9.9 kg, a 20 mg d4T capsule is
opened and dispersed into 5 ml of water and 2.5 ml
is withdrawn with a syringe and administered and
the remaining 2.5 ml is discarded). The rationale
for this method is to minimise the use of stavu-
dine solution (1 mg/ml when reconstituted), which
is expensive, requires refrigeration, and results in
relatively large medication volumes for administra-
tion to young infants at the usual dosing sched-
ule (1 mg/kg/dose). There are now data based on
high-performance liquid chromatography analysis of
active drug concentration in dispersed capsule
solutions, supporting the accuracy of this method
for certain brands of d4T capsules.14
2. Standardised doses of ritonavir used for pharma-
co- logical boosting of LPV/r (in order to achieve a
ratio of 1:1) in children receiving concurrent LPV/r and
rifampicin-based TB treatment.15
3. Colour coding of ARVs on the chart corresponding
to colour coding methods used in the pharmacy for
medication containers and syringes to assist par-
ents and caregivers with correct dosing.
4. The chart incorporated co-trimoxazole and multi-
tamin syrup dosing according to weight bands.
5. Since there were no standard weight-band dosing
recommendations for infants weighing <5 kg in the
WHO document (2006), it was recommended that
a clinician experienced in ARV prescribing be con-
sulted for such cases.

**VALIDATION OF WEIGHT-BAND DOSING TABLES**

There are a number of approaches to validation of
weight-band dosing. Direct methods include pharma-
cokinetic (Pk) studies and therapeutic drug monitoring.
Indirect methods include comparison of weight-based
with BSA doses, and safety and efficacy studies. Quali-
tative studies assessing the usefulness of a weight-
band dosing table to prescribing clinicians and dis-
pensing pharmacists should be undertaken.

Differing growth rates and the prevalence of malnutri-
tion could have a significant impact on the accuracy of
weight-band dosing of drugs that are usually dosed by
BSA. A study comparing the calculated BSA dose range
with WHO weight-band doses for AZT, ddI, NVP and LPV/r
using actual heights and weights of 601 children at the
time of ARV initiation was undertaken at a terti-
ary hospital in South Africa in 2007.16 The median age
was 28 months (interquartile range 13 – 62), 49% of
children weighed <10 kg, and 59% and 63% of chil-
dren had weight-for-age and height-for-age z-scores
≤–2 (moderate to severe underweight or stunting),
respectively. Children with body weight <5 kg were ex-
cluded as weight-based dosing recommendations were
unavailable for this category, and children <6 months of
age were excluded as LPV/r BSA dosing recommenda-
tions are different in this age group. The BSA dose rang-
es used were AZT 180 – 240 mg/m², ddI 90 – 120 mg/m²,
NVP 160 – 200 mg/m², and L/r 230 – 300 mg/m².

Results are presented in Table I. The conclusion of this
study was that the 2006 WHO simplified weight band-
dosing method effectively avoided under-dosing chil-
dren in relation to existing BSA dose recommendations
for AZT, NVP and LPV/r suspensions. However, the au-
thors noted that the risk of over-dosing is greater with
weight-band recommendations for existing capsule
or tablet formulations of these ARVs. Further studies
are recommended for the WHO weight-band dosing
method.
A VDA to facilitate dosing calculations in response to children’s growth and weight during ARV treatment developed by Callens et al.\textsuperscript{11} was evaluated using anthropometric data from 55 children from the USA and 324 children from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In comparison with WHO-recommended dosing, the authors noted a relative dosing difference of $\geq 20\%$ in $< 3\%$ of children for NVP, AZT and d4T but in $20\%$ of children for 3TC, over-dosing being more frequent.\textsuperscript{11}

A detailed review of Pk studies and clinical outcome, safety and efficacy studies undertaken in children treated with individual or FDC ARV drugs dosed according to weight bands is beyond the scope of this article. There are no reported Pk or clinical studies directly comparing weight band with mg/kg or BSA dosing approaches.

### TABLE I. WEIGHT–BAND DOSE RELATIVE TO CALCULATED BODY SURFACE AREA DOSE RANGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARV drug, BSA dose range, formulations assessed</th>
<th>Weight–band dose relative to calculated BSA dose range (N=601 children) (using anthropometric data at time of starting ART)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under-dosing (% of children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZT 180 - 240 mg/m(^2)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral solution (10 mg/ml)</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capsules (100 mg)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ddl 90 - 120 mg/m(^2)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablets (25, 50, 100 mg, chewable or dispersable in water)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVP 160 - 200 mg/m(^2)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral suspension (10 mg/ml)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablets (200 mg)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lopinavir/ritonavir 230 - 300 mg/m(^2)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral solution (80/20 mg/ml)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capsules (133.3/33.3 mg soft)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A WHO generic tool was used to assess and evaluate the expected dose delivered of any product in relation to intended target doses. For all formulations, changes in the number of pills and switches from one formulation to another occur at the same weight bands. There was an attempt to avoid dosing any single ARV component below 90\% of the intended delivered dose and not more than 25\% above the intended dose (or dose range for products with an established dose range). For NVP, the aim was to avoid dosing below 100\% of the minimum of the dose range (150 mg/m\(^2\)). Discrepancies between dose delivered and intended dose were justified based on available Pk data, consideration of toxicity, and threshold for development of HIV drug resistance. Higher dosing for children who would fall into the lower weight bands (under 3 years) was accepted for drugs with known increased metabolism or clearance in the young child (NVP, 3TC, d4T, abacavir, LPV/r).

In South Africa, the Antiretroviral Drug Dosing Chart (2009) is an update of the 2007 Western Cape version and incorporates elements of the WHO 2008 table; in particular, dosing recommendations for weight bands 3 - 3.9 kg and 4 - 4.9 kg (Fig. 2). Many of the formulations in the WHO table, in particular the FDCs, are not currently available to public sector treatment programmes in South Africa and so are excluded. The registration and availability of the paediatric strength heat-stable LPV/r tablet (Aluvia; 100 mg lopinavir/25 mg ritonavir) is still awaited, but it has been included. Local dosing practices described in the 2007 chart have been retained with modification, e.g. the d4T open-ended capsule method is now used from 5 kg body weight. A comparative analysis of the revised weight band dosing in comparison with BSA dosing for AZT, NVP and LPV/r has been completed but not yet published. An analysis of the dose of LPV/r solution in mg/m\(^2\) that revised WHO weight band dose recommendations would provide, using anthropometric data on 976 children initiating ART at median age of 11.2 months, indicated doses considerably in excess of 300/75 mg/m\(^2\), particularly for children <6 months of age.\textsuperscript{19} A protocol for an infant Pk study using the revised WHO weight-band dosing...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Strength of tab (mg) or liquid mg/ml</th>
<th>Number of tablets or ml by weight band (twice daily)</th>
<th>Strength of adult tab (mg)</th>
<th>Number of tablets by weight band (twice daily)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-3.9 kg</td>
<td>4-4.9 kg</td>
<td>5-5.9 kg</td>
<td>6-6.9 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZT</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZT/3TC</td>
<td>60/30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZT/3TC/NVP</td>
<td>60/30/50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC (new annex E)</td>
<td>300; 20 mg/ml</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC/3TC</td>
<td>60/30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC/3TC/NVP</td>
<td>60/30/50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC/AZT/3TC</td>
<td>60/60/30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3TC</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3TC (new annex E)</td>
<td>150; 10 mg/ml</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d4T</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d4T (new annex E)</td>
<td>various; 1 mg/ml</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d4T/3TC</td>
<td>6/30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d4T/3TC/NVP</td>
<td>6/30/50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVP</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVP (new annex E)</td>
<td>200; 10 mg/ml</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lopinavir/ritonavir</td>
<td>100/25</td>
<td>n/r</td>
<td>n/r</td>
<td>n/r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lop/rit (new annex E)</td>
<td>80/20 mg/ml</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 3 tablets BD of 100/25 may be substituted with 2 tablets am and 1 tablet pm of 200/50
Note: higher doses of Lop/rit may be required when co-administered with enzyme-inducing drugs such as NVP, EFV; fosamprenavir, rifampicin.

Fig. 1. Paediatric antiretroviral dosing table, World Health Organization (2008).
The use of weight-band ARV dosing approaches, adapted in accordance with locally available formulations and treatment programme conditions, is a key component of simplifying paediatric ART for health care providers as well as children and their caregivers, and will contribute to expanding treatment coverage for HIV-infected infants and children.

CONCLUSION


REFERENCES


**Antiretroviral Drug Dosing Chart for Children (2009)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wt. (kg)</th>
<th>Available formulations</th>
<th>Target dose</th>
<th>Lamivudine (3TC)</th>
<th>Zidovudine (AZT)</th>
<th>Didanosine (ddI)</th>
<th>Abacavir (ABC)</th>
<th>Efavirenz (EFV)</th>
<th>Nevirapine (NVP)</th>
<th>Lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/rtv)</th>
<th>Ritonavir boosting (RTV)</th>
<th>Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole</th>
<th>Multi-vitamins</th>
<th>Target dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;3</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>3ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>avoid</td>
<td>3ml</td>
<td>Dosing &lt;10kg</td>
<td>not established</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>1ml</td>
<td><strong>1ml</strong></td>
<td>5ml OR ½ tab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-3.9</td>
<td>7.5mg open capsule</td>
<td>3ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>2x25mg tabs</td>
<td>3ml</td>
<td>Dosing &lt;10kg</td>
<td>not established</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>1ml</td>
<td><strong>1ml</strong></td>
<td>5ml OR ½ tab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-4.9</td>
<td>15mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>4ml</td>
<td>9ml</td>
<td>2x25mg tabs</td>
<td>3ml</td>
<td>Dosing &lt;10kg</td>
<td>not established</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>1ml</td>
<td><strong>1ml</strong></td>
<td>5ml OR ½ tab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-5.9</td>
<td>20mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>4ml</td>
<td>9ml</td>
<td>2x25mg tabs</td>
<td>3ml</td>
<td>Dosing &lt;10kg</td>
<td>not established</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>1ml</td>
<td><strong>1ml</strong></td>
<td>5ml OR ½ tab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-6.9</td>
<td>15mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-7.9</td>
<td>15mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>4ml</td>
<td>9ml</td>
<td>2x25mg tabs</td>
<td>3ml</td>
<td>Dosing &lt;10kg</td>
<td>not established</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>1ml</td>
<td><strong>1ml</strong></td>
<td>10ml OR 1 tab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-8.9</td>
<td>20mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-9.9</td>
<td>20mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-10.9</td>
<td>15mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-11.9</td>
<td>15mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13.9</td>
<td>20mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14-16.9</td>
<td>20mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-19.9</td>
<td>20mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
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<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-24.9</td>
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<td>12ml</td>
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<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-29.9</td>
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<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34.9</td>
<td>30mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39.9</td>
<td>30mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;40</td>
<td>30mg capsule into 5ml</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>12ml</td>
<td>1x50mg/1x25mg</td>
<td>6ml</td>
<td>200mg cap/tab</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>2ml twice daily OR 100/25mg tabs: 2 tabs am, 1 tab pm</td>
<td>5ml</td>
<td>10-10.9</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NEED HELP?
CALL NATIONAL HIV HCW HOTLINE
0800 212 506/021 406 6782
OR
send an sms or "please call me" message to
071 840 1572

Body Surface Area (BSA) m² = \sqrt{\text{Weight (kg)} \times \text{Height (cm)}} / 3600

- A lead-in dose of nevirapine is given for the first 14 days of treatment equivalent to half of maintenance dose i.e. usual maintenance dose but given once-daily. Increase to full maintenance dose after 14 days if no rash develops.

- For children weighing <5kg, 10mg of stavudine, 5mg of lamivudine and 250mg of didanosine are to be divided into two doses.

- For children weighing <3kg, 5mg of stavudine, 2.5mg of lamivudine and 125mg of didanosine are to be divided into two doses.

- For capsules, tablets and dispersible capsules, refer to the manufacturer’s instructions for appropriate dilution.

- **1** = 1 tab; **2** = 2 tabs; **3** = 3 tabs; **4** = 4 tabs.

Fig. 2. Antiretroviral drug dosing chart for children (2009) (copies available via National HIV Health Care Worker Hotline 0800 212 506).


