

How to Find Drug Tables in CPS

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Table 1: Drug Therapy For Cold Sores^[a]

Drug Class: Antivirals, oral			
Drug/Cost ^[b]	Dosage	Adverse Effects	Comments
<i>famciclovir</i> Famvir, generics < \$20	Adults: <i>Primary infection:</i> 500 mg BID PO × 7 days <i>Recurrent infection:</i> 750 mg BID PO × 1 day or 1500 mg PO as a single dose	Headache, nausea.	Treatment should be started as soon as possible in patients with prodromal symptoms, ideally within 48 h of onset. ^{[2][31]}
<i>valacyclovir</i> Valtrex, generics < \$20	Adults: <i>Primary infection:</i> 1 g BID PO × 7 days <i>Recurrent infection:</i> 2 g BID PO × 1 day <i>Suppression:</i> 500 mg once daily PO × 4 months	Headache, nausea.	Treatment should be started as soon as possible in patients with prodromal symptoms, ideally within 48 h of onset. ^{[2][31]}
Drug Class: Antivirals, topical			
<i>acyclovir</i> Zovirax Cream, Zovirax Ointment, generics Cream: \$60–80 Ointment: \$40–60	Adults and children >12 y: <i>Recurrent infection:</i> start within 1 h of onset of signs or symptoms. Apply 5 times daily during waking hours × 4 days	Local pain (transient burning or stinging).	Less effective than systemic therapy to reduce healing time. ^{[2][32]}
<i>acyclovir/ hydrocortisone</i> Xerese \$20–40	Adults and children >12 y: <i>Recurrent infection:</i> start immediately after onset of signs or symptoms; apply 5 times daily during waking hours × 5 days	Cheilitis, skin reactions at application site, swelling of the lips.	

^[a] For more information on antiviral therapy for herpesvirus infection, consult the *Compendium of Therapeutic Choices: Herpesvirus Infections*.

^[b] Cost of smallest available pack size or therapy for recurrent infection; includes drug cost only.