

## Drug Protocol: Cefazolin

**Drug:** Cefazolin

**Indication(s) for Use in C.P.M. Practice:** Intrapartum prophylaxis for treatment of GBS in labor.

**Mechanism of Action:** Beta-lactam, bactericidal action of cephalosporins results from inhibition of cell wall synthesis.

**Legal for use in your state/province:**

In Alabama a licensed midwife may not perform "Administration of any prescription medication in a manner that violates the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substance Act" (alsbm, 2018). According to the Alabama board of pharmacy (2023), this is not a controlled substance, therefore a midwife can administer this drug during labor.

Form	Dose	Route of Administration	Administration instructions	Treatment notes
Dual chamber injection	500mg or 1g cefazolin diluted with dextrose hydrous	IV	After removing the peelable foil strip, activating the seals, and thoroughly mixing, the reconstituted drug product is intended for single intravenous use.	Onset: 3 hours to reach steady serum level Duration: 8 hours

**Contraindications:** Those with known allergy to the cephalosporin group of antibiotics

**Adverse reactions/side effects:**

"Gastrointestinal: Diarrhea, oral candidiasis (oral thrush), vomiting, nausea, stomach cramps, anorexia and pseudomembranous colitis. Onset of pseudomembranous colitis symptoms may occur during or after antibiotic treatment (see WARNINGS). Nausea and vomiting have been reported rarely. Allergic: Anaphylaxis, eosinophilia, itching, drug fever, skin rash, Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Hematologic: Neutropenia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, thrombocythemia. Hepatic: Transient rise in SGOT, SGPT, and alkaline phosphatase levels has been observed. As with other cephalosporins, reports of hepatitis have been received. Renal: As with other cephalosporins, reports of increased BUN and creatinine levels, as well as renal failure, have been received. Local Reactions: Rare instances of phlebitis have been reported at site of injection. Some induration has occurred. Other Reactions: Genital and anal pruritus (including vulvar pruritus, genital moniliasis, and vaginitis)" (Braun Medical, 2007).

**Storage:** Store unactivated system at 68-77 degrees F. After reconstitution, must be used within 24 hours at room temperature or 7 days if refrigerated. May be stored between 59-86 degrees F for transport. Do not freeze.

**References:**

Alabama Board of Pharmacy. (2023). Statutes & rules. <https://albop.com/statutes-rules/>

Alabama State Board of Midwifery. (2018). Practice of licensed midwifery. <https://alsbm.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/582-X-3.pdf>

Braun Medical. (2007, January). Cefazolin package insert. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2007/050779s013lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2007/050779s013lbl.pdf)

Parker, N., Schneegurt, M., Thi Tu, A., Lister, P., & Forster, B.M. (2016). Mechanisms of antibacterial drugs. In Microbiology (Chapter 14.3). OpenStax. Access for free at <https://openstax.org/books/microbiology/pages/14-3-mechanisms-of-antibacterial-drugs>

