

TABLE 2 Common Medications for Foal Diarrhea

MEDICATION	DOSAGE	NOTES	REFERENCE
Amikacin	21–25 mg/kg IM or IV q24h (monitor peak and trough levels)	Amikacin is the preferred aminoglycoside in foals, but use it with caution, obtain half-hour peak levels to ensure the proper therapeutic level, and adjust the dose if necessary. Monitor renal values (e.g., creatinine, blood urea nitrogen, and 23-hr amikacin trough levels) before administration of a second dose.	Magdesian ⁵
Bismuth subsalicylate and kaolin/pectin	0.5–4 mL/kg PO q6–24h	—	Magdesian ¹
Ceftiofur sodium	4–10 mg/kg IM or IV q12h; 10 mg/kg IV q6h	—	Magdesian, ⁵ Palmer ⁸
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> types C and D antitoxin	Off-label use: 50 mL in 1 L of fluid at a rate of 250 mL/hr up to 4 hr and/or 50 mL PO once	—	MacKay ²
Di-tri-octahedral smectite (Bio-Sponge Powder, Platinum Performance)	3 tbs (27.6 g) in 30 mL of water PO q6–12h; discontinue 1 day after resolution of clinical signs; discontinue after 7 days if there is no clinical improvement	—	Manufacturer's recommendation for foals with intestinal disease
Doxycycline	10 mg/kg PO q12h	—	Sampieri et al ⁷
Fenbendazole	10 mg/kg PO q24h for 5 days	—	—
Lactase	6000–9000 U/50-kg foal q3–8h	—	Magdesian ¹
Metronidazole	10–15 mg/kg PO q8–12h 15–25 mg/kg PO q6h ^a 20–25 mg/kg PO q12h as crushed tablets in aqueous suspension ^b	Because metronidazole can cause depression, especially at higher doses, monitor mentation closely.	Magdesian, ¹ MacKay, ² Magdesian ⁵
Omeprazole	4 mg/kg PO q24h (not labeled for use in foals younger than 4 wk)	—	Magdesian ¹
Oxytetracycline	6.6 mg/kg IV q12–24h	—	Sampieri et al ⁷
Penicillin (potassium)	20,000–40,000 IU/kg IV q6h	—	Magdesian ¹
<i>Saccharomyces boulardii</i>	10 × 10 ⁹ PO q12h in adult horses; there are no published reports for foals; anecdotal use of 5 × 10 ⁹ colony-forming units PO q12–24h	—	Desrochers et al ¹¹
Sucralfate	20 mg/kg PO q6h	—	Magdesian ¹

^aSweeney RW, Soma LR, Woodward CB, Charlton CB. Pharmacokinetics of metronidazole given to horses by intravenous and oral routes. *JAVMA* 1986;47(8):1726–1729.

^bBaggot JD, Wilson WD, Hietela S. Clinical pharmacokinetics of metronidazole in horses. *J Vet Pharmacol Ther* 1988;11:417–420.