

Letterkenny University Hospital - LUH Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy/Guidelines: Malaria

Malaria ■

1. **These guidelines are intended for adults.**
2. **Species** of infecting parasite is frequently **uncertain**
3. **Discussion** with Microbiology recommended.
4. **Severe malaria is a medical emergency.** After rapid clinical assessment, a diagnostic test should be sent. In patients with clinically severe malaria, **or** high parasitaemia (2% or greater) first line treatment is intravenous Artesunate which should be started within one hour of assessment. Intravenous Quinine may be used if Artesunate is unavailable for any reason.
5. **Follow-on therapy** Note for some kinds of malaria additional follow on therapy with **Primaquine** is required to eradicate the persistent liver stage. All cases must be discussed with Infectious Diseases (GUH) or Microbiology.
6. **Discharge prescriptions** There can be problems with availability and medical card coverage of oral treatment on discharge. Please contact community pharmacy at least 24hours prior to discharge to arrange supply. If there are any issues sourcing please contact inpatient Pharmacy to discuss supply.
7. Riamet PO and Artesunate IV are stocked in LUH in the ED Main Omnicell.

References:

1. *WHO Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria 2023*
2. [Lalloo et al](#) UK malaria treatment guidelines 2016 *Journal of Infection* 72:635-649
3. *The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy Digital update March 2024*