

# Repeat corticosteroids for women at risk of preterm birth

Consider repeat antenatal corticosteroids following a single course of corticosteroids if:

- Gestational age is  $\leq$  32 weeks 6 days
- Preterm birth is planned/expected within 7 days, even if likely within 24hrs
- Not less than 7 days following a course of antenatal corticosteroids

Administer repeat dose of corticosteroids\* as either:

**Betamethasone 12mg in single dose** (Celestone Chronodose™ 11.4mg IM as one dose)  
After this dose, if the woman has not given birth within 7 -14 days, and remains at risk of PTB at < 32w6d, a further single dose of Celestone Chronodose™ 11.4mg can be given, *up to a maximum of 3 single repeat doses only*

**OR**

**A single repeat course of 24 mg betamethasone in 2 divided doses** completed within 24 hours. *Do not give further repeat courses.*

\* If betamethasone is unavailable, use two doses of dexamethasone 6mg IM 12 hours apart as equivalent to a single dose of Celestone Chronodose™ 11.4mg IM.

IM, intramuscular; PTB, preterm birth

Source: Antenatal Corticosteroid Clinical Practice Guidelines Panel. Antenatal corticosteroids given to women prior to birth to improve fetal, infant, child and adult health. Clinical Practice Guidelines 2015. Liggins Institute, The University of Auckland, New Zealand.