



**antimicrobial safety summary
for community-based healthcare professionals -
Vancomycin (Oral) ADULT**

INDICATION:

For the treatment of *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI). In general, severe cases of CDI are managed in hospital.

USUAL TREATMENT REGIMEN:

125 mg every six hours for 10 days

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Previous hypersensitivity reaction to vancomycin or any excipients

CAUTIONS:

For the dosing regimen of 125 mg every 6 hours for 10 days there is no requirement to monitor vancomycin levels. In general, vancomycin is poorly absorbed following oral administration.

Previous hypersensitivity reaction to teicoplanin.

CONCOMITANT MEDICATION

As part of the management of a person with *C. difficile* infection, laxatives should be discontinued and anti-motility agents are not advised. Consideration should be given to the discontinuation of concomitant antibiotics and proton pump inhibitors if deemed appropriate by the clinician.

Cholestyramine binds to oral vancomycin within the gut and these two drugs should not be co-administered.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

In general, side effects following oral administration of vancomycin are rare due to the low level of systemic absorption

SAFETY IN SPECIFIC PATIENT COHORTS:

RENAL IMPAIRMENT: No dose adjustment for the treatment regimen included above

HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT: No dose adjustment is required for a person with hepatic insufficiency

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS:

Vancocin™ 125mg Matrigel capsules are currently available in the community setting only with a High Tech prescription, therefore a GP cannot currently prescribe this product. As an alternative, vancomycin powder for injection may be used to prepare an oral solution. See Information for Dispensing Pharmacists for instructions on the preparation of vancomycin oral solution from vancomycin powder for injection.

Further information can be found on the summary of product characteristics (SmPC) on www.hpra.ie



INFORMATION FOR DISPENSING PHARMACISTS:

Vancomycin capsules are licensed in Ireland and should be dispensed first line if possible. However, access in community settings may be limited as they are currently only available on a High Tech prescription. In the event that vancomycin capsules are unavailable, or a person has swallowing difficulties or a nasogastric or PEG tube for enteral administration, vials of vancomycin powder for injection may be used to make an extemporaneous oral solution. Extemporaneous vancomycin oral solution has a bitter taste. Patients can be advised to mix the dose at the point of administration with a common flavouring syrup such as orange cordial to improve the taste.

Option One: To Make Vancomycin 125 mg/ 5 mL Oral Solution (200 mL)

Ingredients

- Vancomycin 500mg powder for injection x 10 vials
- Purified water

Method

- Refer to Guidance for Pharmacists on Extemporaneous Dispensing, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and local procedures for preparation of extemporaneous products
- Reconstitute each of the ten vials of vancomycin 500mg powder for injection with purified water as per the manufacturer's instructions
- Calibrate an amber glass bottle to 200mls
- Withdraw the solutions from the vials and place in a pre-calibrated amber glass bottle
- Use purified water to bring the solution to a final volume of 200mL, shake well and label appropriately

Storage and expiry

- Refrigerate between 2° and 8°C
- Protect from light
- Shake well before use
- Expiry: 14 days

Option Two: To Make Individual Doses Vancomycin Oral Solution

[NOTE: This option is only suitable if final product is being administered by a healthcare professional]

Ingredients:

- Vancomycin 500mg powder for injection
- Water for injection

Method

- Refer to Guidance for Pharmacists on Extemporaneous Dispensing, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and local procedures for preparation of extemporaneous products
- Reconstitute each vancomycin 500mg vial with 10mL water for injection. The time of reconstitution should be noted on the vial.
- At time of administration, take required dose (125mg = 2.5mL) and dilute in 30mL of water. Ensure all relevant persons are educated that this preparation is for oral or enteral feeding tube administration only.
- This diluted solution may also be given via nasogastric / PEG tube

Storage and expiry

- Reconstituted vial should be refrigerated between 2° and 8°C
- Expiry: 24 hours after reconstitution of vial

NB: Information on storage and expiry in this guidance may vary from SmPCs for vancomycin powder for injection. References used for this guidance include Martindale and Extemp.ie.