

# Alternative routes of administration and preparation of Vancomycin for the treatment of *Clostridium difficile* Infection in Adults

## Administration via oral route (unable to swallow capsules but able to swallow liquids)

Usual vancomycin dose: 125mg 6 hourly  
(do not administer via IV route)

**NB.** If ileus detected: 500mg 6 hourly

Vancomycin preparation for injection is licensed for oral use.

- Reconstitute vancomycin 500mg vial with 10 ml of water for injection to give a concentration of 50 mg/ml
- Withdraw the required volume (e.g. for 125mg withdraw 2.5 ml and for 500mg withdraw 10 ml) and administer via an oral syringe.
- This may be diluted further with 20 – 30 ml sterile water before administering.
- Vials are for single use only and any remaining volume should be disposed of immediately in accordance with the safe and secure handling of medicine protocol.

## Administration via enteral feeding tubes

Usual vancomycin dose: 500mg 6 hourly  
(do not administer via IV route)

This is an unlicensed route of administration and is only recommended under the advice of Infectious Diseases/ microbiology.

- Reconstitute vancomycin 500mg vial with 10 ml of water for injection to give a concentration of 50 mg/ml
- Withdraw the total volume (10 ml) and administer via a nasogastric tube.
- This may be diluted further with 20 – 30 ml sterile water before administering.
- Flush nasogastric tube with 15 – 30 ml sterile water before and after vancomycin.
- Vials are for single use only and any remaining volume should be disposed of immediately in accordance with the safe and secure handling of medicine protocol.

## Administration of intra-colonic vancomycin enemas

Usual vancomycin dose: 500mg 6 hourly  
(do not administer via IV route)

**NB.** Review intra-colonic route daily and change to oral/enteral route as soon as appropriate.

This is an unlicensed route of administration and is only recommended under the advice of Infectious Diseases/ microbiology.

- Reconstitute vancomycin 500mg vial with 10 ml of water for injection to give a concentration of 50 mg/ml.
- Withdraw the total volume (10 ml) and add to a 100 ml bag of sodium chloride 0.9% to give a concentration of 5 mg/ml and distribute evenly in two 50 ml syringes.
- Lay the patient on their side and insert a lubricated, 18 – 20 gauge, short-term Foley® catheter into the rectum with care.
- Inflate the balloon with sterile water (supplied with catheter).
- Administer the vancomycin solution into the catheter (avoiding forceful administration).
- Securely plug the Foley® catheter with a green catheter plug (spigot for catheters).
- Deflate the catheter balloon after 60 minutes dwell time is completed.
- Remove and discard Foley® catheter and contents via patient commode.
- Vials are for single use only and any remaining volume should be disposed of immediately in accordance with the safe and secure handling of medicine protocol.

**Further advice may be obtained from Infectious Diseases (based at the Queen Elizabeth University via hospital switchboard) or via the Duty Microbiologist (via hospital switchboard).**