

Intravenous gentamicin and vancomycin for adults on HEPMA: Frequently Asked Questions

PRESCRIBING

How is intravenous gentamicin for adults prescribed in HEPMA?

- Check “Discontinued Rx” section to ensure that a dose has not already been given, e.g. in theatre, A&E, etc.
- Go to “Add drug” and search for gentamicin. There are several IV options that you can select:
 1. *GENTAMICIN AS PER PAPER CHART Intravenous Infusion*, should be selected when treatment dose gentamicin is required e.g. urosepsis. The dosage is automatically populated as “1 dose” and should be left as this. No dosage frequency should be entered on HEPMA. Treatment dose gentamicin must be prescribed PRN in HEPMA, to allow for flexibility if the dose or dosage time requires to be altered. Treatment dose gentamicin must also be prescribed on the gentamicin prescription, administration and monitoring (PAM) chart. The dose and dosage frequency must be prescribed on the PAM chart. For information on how to prescribe on the PAM chart see GGC “Gentamicin dosing guidelines (for patients aged ≥16 years)” in Adults Therapeutics Handbook. Ensure the PAM chart is accessible and near the front of the patient’s folder.
 2. *GENTAMICIN SYNERGISTIC (ENDOCARDITIS)*. A dose, dosage frequency and intended duration (if known) should be entered in HEPMA. Please refer to full GGC guidance “Synergistic gentamicin for endocarditis in adults” available on Staffnet.
 3. *GENTAMICIN PROPHYLAXIS/CATHETER STAT DOSE*. This should be used for patients who require a once off dose for surgical prophylaxis or catheter change. The dose needs to be entered in HEPMA for these stat doses.
- It is important to alert the nursing staff who are administering the medication that a dose has been prescribed to ensure prompt administration.
- It is good practise to add an “order note” when prescribing IV therapeutic dose gentamicin in HEPMA to minimise the risk of missed doses. A box can be ticked when adding the note to “Suppress on Order Stop/ discontinue” so that when the drug is discontinued, the note will be removed too.

How is intravenous vancomycin for adults prescribed in HEPMA?

- Check “Discontinued Rx” section to ensure that a dose has not already been given, e.g. in theatre, A&E, etc.
- Go to “Add drug” and select “Vancomycin Intravenous Infusions AS CHARTED”.

- There is a prompt to choose route. The majority of patients will receive “Intravenous intermittent infusion” unless they are in an intensive care unit.
- Intravenous vancomycin must be prescribed PRN in HEPMA. The dose should be left as the prepopulated “1 dose” and no dose timings should be added to HEPMA. This is to allow for flexibility if the dose or dosage time requires to be altered.
- Intravenous vancomycin must also be prescribed on the appropriate prescription, administration and monitoring (PAM) chart. The dose and dosage frequency must be prescribed on the PAM chart. For information on how to prescribe vancomycin on the PAM see GGC "Vancomycin intermittent infusion (*for patients aged ≥16 years*)" in the Adult Therapeutics handbook
- Ensure vancomycin PAM chart is accessible and near the front of the patient’s folder.
- It is important to alert the nursing staff who are administering the medication that a dose has been prescribed to ensure prompt administration.
- It is good practise to add an “order note” when prescribing IV vancomycin in HEPMA to minimise the risk of missed doses. A box can be ticked when adding the note to "Suppress on Order Stop/ discontinue" so that when the drug is discontinued, the note will be removed too.

ADMINISTRATION

How do I know when a dose of IV gentamicin or vancomycin is due to be administered?

- When you select your patient in “Administration Round” it will display the medication that is due to be administered with the PRN medication listed at the bottom.
- Check the PRN medication every medication round. If the patient is prescribed gentamicin or vancomycin PRN you must then check the paper prescription, administration and monitoring (PAM) chart to see if a dose is due.
- Check “Discontinued Rx” section to ensure that a dose has not already been given, e.g. in theatre, A&E, etc.
- Once a dose has been administered it must be documented on both the PAM chart and on HEPMA.
- Ensure the gentamicin and vancomycin PAM charts are easily accessible and near the front of the patient’s folder.
- If a patient is receiving synergistic gentamicin for the treatment of endocarditis this will be prescribed in HEPMA with a set dose and time and will appear with the regular medication in “Administration Round”. Once administered you must document administration on both HEPMA and the synergistic gentamicin administration and monitoring chart (available on Staffnet).
- If a patient is prescribed a once off dose of gentamicin for surgical prophylaxis or catheter change this will appear in “Administration round” when it is due.

- It is good practise to highlight patients that are on IV gentamicin and vancomycin during staff handovers.

DISCONTINUATION

How do you stop IV gentamicin and vancomycin on HEPMA?

- Ensure that you discontinue the gentamicin and vancomycin on both HEPMA and the PAM chart, if in use.
- To discontinue on HEPMA click into the medication and then select "Order Modify". A discontinue option will then appear near the top left, click on this. Select the reason and the time for it to be discontinued and confirm by clicking on the "Discontinue" box.
- To discontinue the medication on the PAM chart tick the "stopped" box (adding a signature and date) and score through all pages of the chart with the word STOP.

Please refer to GGC Adult Therapeutic Handbook for full dosing and monitoring guidelines.