

Letterkenny University Hospital - LUH Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy/Guidelines: Appendix 2: Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI)

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Clostridioides Difficile Patient Information Leaflet

A [patient information leaflet](#) for C. diff is available from the HSE via the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/hcai/hcai-amr-information-for-patients-and-public/patient-leaflets/cdiff-patient-information>

Intracolonic Vancomycin

Intracolonic Vancomycin

1. **Requires Microbiology approval**
2. Adapted from the University of Washington
3. **Adjunctive** therapy for failing Vancomycin therapy in **severe** CDI
 - 500mg of Vancomycin injection is reconstituted and added to 100ml of NaCl 0.9%
 - An 18G Foley catheter is inserted per rectum and the balloon is inflated
 - The Vancomycin solution is instilled into the rectum and retained for 60 minutes by clamping the catheter
 - Once retention time complete, the catheter is unclamped, the balloon deflated and the catheter removed
 - The process is repeated every 6 hours
 - Duration should be discussed with microbiology

Reference: Health Protection Surveillance Centre. Surveillance, Diagnosis and Management of Clostridium difficile Infection in Ireland [June 2014](#)

Tapered pulsed oral Vancomycin

Tapered Pulsed [Oral Vancomycin](#)

Requires Microbiology approval ■

Vancomycin PO

- 125mg every 6 hours for 1 week, then
- 125mg every 12 hours for 1 week, then
- 125mg once daily for 1 week, then
- 125mg every second day for 1 week, then
- 125mg every three days for 2 weeks.

Reference:

Health Protection Surveillance Centre. Surveillance, Diagnosis and Management of Clostridium difficile Infection in Ireland [June 2014](#)

Alternative routes of administration and preparation for Vancomycin

For treatment of Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI)

Alternative routes of administration and preparation for Vancomycin:

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

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
- Dilute 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

NB: Medicines intended for oral administration should not be prepared using intravenous needles and syringes because of the risk of the medicine being given intravenously in error. Enteral devices should be used.

An ENFit needle attached to an enteral ENFit syringe can be used to pierce the vancomycin vial bung to reconstitute and withdraw the solution for oral administration.

Administration via enteral feeding tubes:

This is an unlicensed route of administration and is only recommended under the advice of microbiology

- Preparation as above for oral

References:

Summary of Product Characteristics: Vancomycin Viatris 500mg & 1000mg powder for solution. Accessed via [HPRA website](#) on 16/12/25

Medinfo Galway University Hospital [Intravenous Vancomycin monograph](#) . Accessed 16/12/25

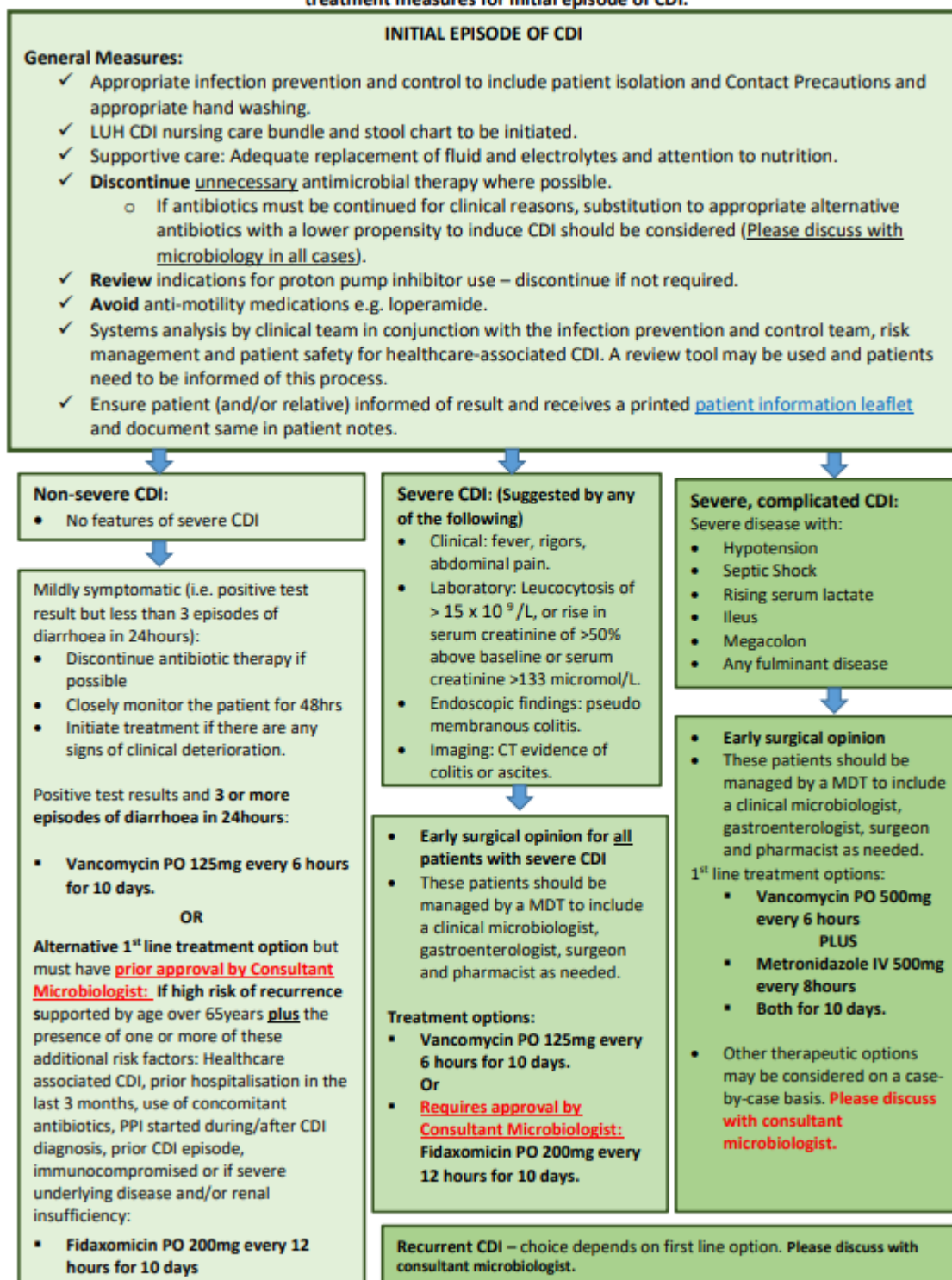
NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service - [choosing between oral vancomycin options](#) . Accessed 17/12/25

LUH CDI Practical Treatment Guidance

LUH Practical Guidance

(adopted from [HSPC guidance](#) Accessed Jan 2024)

Clostridioides Difficile Infection (CDI) disease severity stratification – general and specific treatment measures for initial episode of CDI.



Please refer to [LUH Empiric Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy](#) for additional information. Alternatively contact Microbiology or Infection Prevention and Control team for advice.

V2: Updated June 2025