

Letterkenny University Hospital - LUH Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy/Guidelines: 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