

Treatment of suspected or confirmed *Clostridioides difficile* (C.diff) Infection (CDI) in adults 18years and over

1st Episode

1st Line Option

Oral vancomycin 125mg
Four times a day
Duration : 10 days

2nd Line Option

Patients who fail to improve after 7 days or worsen with 125 mg oral vancomycin

Discuss with infection specialist
(choice may depend on clinical setting)

Oral fidaxomicin 200mg
Twice a day
Duration : 10 days

or

Higher dose of oral vancomycin up to 500mg
Four times a day
Duration : 10 days

Life-threatening infection

Seek urgent specialist advice, including surgical review

Life-threatening CDI is when a patient has any of the following attributable to CDI:
admission to ICU, hypotension with or without need for vasopressors, ileus or significant abdominal distension, mental status changes, WBC higher than $35 \times 10^9 / L$ or less than 2×10^9 , serum lactate greater than 2.2 mmol/L or end organ failure (mechanical ventilation, renal failure)

Specialists may offer:

Oral vancomycin 500mg
Four times a day
Duration: 10 days

with

IV metronidazole 500mg
Three times a day

Review need for intravenous therapy daily

Recurrent infection

Relapse or 1st Recurrence

Relapse of CDI **within** 12 weeks of symptom resolution

Oral fidaxomicin 200mg
Twice a day
Duration : 10 days
Exception- If initial treatment course wasn't completed, then treat as 1st episode ie oral vancomycin 125mg

1st recurrence of CDI **more than** 12 weeks of symptom resolution

Oral vancomycin 125mg
Four times a day
Duration : 10 days

2nd Recurrence

Discuss with infection specialist and consider:

- Faecal microbiota transplant (FMT) (Supply: [FMT - University of Birmingham](#) or via local service if available. Consider cost and expiry date)
- Pulse or tapered vancomycin if FMT not available

Review and document severity of disease DAILY

- Evidence of severe colitis in CT scan or X-ray
- Temperature higher than 38.5°C
- Suspicion of or confirmed pseudomembranous colitis, toxic megacolon or ileus
- Acute rising serum creatinine higher than 1.5 x baseline
- WBC higher than $15 \times 10^9 / L$

Advise on:

- drinking enough fluids to avoid dehydration
- preventing the spread of infection
- seeking medical help if symptoms worsen rapidly or significantly at any time