Re: Oral Vancomycin for treatment of severe *C. difficile* infection (CDI)

- Recent root cause analysis for CDI cases have identified patients have **missed or delayed doses in starting treatment**.

- **Oral vancomycin** is indicated for treatment of severe CDI and must be **given enterally** via the GI tract (not intravenously). The usual treatment dose is **125mg PO four times a day**.

- The **first dose** must be administered **promptly** when it’s prescribed. Do not wait until the next drug administration time. Do not omit a dose.

- Vancomycin **injection** can be used to **prepare a solution for oral or nasogastric** administration for patients with difficulties in swallowing (see instructions below).

- Most “Nil-by-mouth” patients can still be given oral vancomycin when prescribed. If unsure please check with your pharmacists.

- Follow the flow diagram below for obtaining the drug

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**Vancomycin 125mg Capsules**

- Stock for:
  - Godstone
  - AMU
  - Meadvale
  - Nutfield

**Vancomycin 500mg injection**

- Stock for:
  - Bletchingley
  - Capel
  - Cophorne
  - CCU
  - Gostone
  - Hazelwood
  - Holmwood
  - ICU
  - Leigh
  - Limpfield
  - NNU
  - Outwood
  - SSDU
  - Tandridge

**Pharmacy open**

- (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 10-1.30pm and Sun 10-12pm)
- Please contact pharmacy to get an urgent supply

**Pharmacy closed**

- (out of hours)
- Please contact site manager to access pharmacy emergency drug cupboard to obtain the drug
- Or
- Borrow from wards which have stocks for vancomycin (see list on left hand side).

- **Method of reconstitution**
  - Reconstitute one 500mg vancomycin injection with 10ml of water for injection
  - Document the time and date on a label and attach label to the reconstituted vial
  - Withdraw 2.5ml (125mg) from the reconstituted vial and mix in 30ml of water. Common flavouring syrups/squash can be added to the solution to improve taste
  - Store remaining reconstituted vial in fridge. Discard after 24 hours
  - One 500mg reconstituted vial will provide four 125mg doses (1 day’s treatment)

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