

Clostridium difficile treatment plan - Patient Information

Please read the Information Leaflet supplied with your medicine

What is my medicine for?

Vancomycin and fidaxomicin are antibiotics which are used to treat *Clostridium difficile*, a bacteria that can infect the bowel.

How should I take my medicine?

Treatment for *Clostridium difficile* is usually for 10-14 days. You have been advised by a specialist e.g. a Microbiologist to take a long course of treatment because you have had repeated *Clostridium difficile* infections.

This is an initial 2 week treatment course with either vancomycin or fidaxomicin and then a longer tapering course of vancomycin. Vancomycin must only be taken in this way under specialist advice. The number of days you will take vancomycin on will reduce over time. Please discuss with your doctor if this doesn't apply to you.

The vancomycin tapering regime is usually a 5 week course. Please complete the entire course unless directed otherwise by your doctor.

Please find below a table explaining how to take your antibiotics.

Select		Dose and Frequency	Number of days of the week	Time of day			
				Breakfast	Lunchtime	Teatime	Bedtime
2 week Treatment							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks 1-2	Vancomycin 125mg (1 capsule) FOUR times a day	Every day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>		OR	Fidaxomicin 200mg (1 capsule) TWICE a day	Every day	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5 week Vancomycin Taper							
Week 3		125mg (1 capsule) THREE times a day (every 8 hours)	Every day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4		125mg (1 capsule) TWICE a day	Every day	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5		125mg (1 capsule) ONCE a day	Every day	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Week 6		125mg (1 capsule) ONCE a day	Alternate days	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternate days		
Week 7		125mg (1 capsule) ONCE a day	Every third day	<input type="checkbox"/>	Every third day		

Whilst you are completing your 7 week course of treatment please contact your doctor urgently if:

- You feel very unwell
- Have a high temperature
- Have severe abdominal pain
- Stop passing stool completely

Additional Advice

- Do not take anti-diarrhoeal medicine (for e.g. loperamide), as this can stop the infection being cleared from your body
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water and clean contaminated surfaces, objects or sheets
- **For further information please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/c-difficile/>**