**Prescribing Tip for Information**

***Clostridioides difficile* Infection: Treatment options**



***Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) infectionis** [defined](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng199/chapter/recommendations#c-difficile-infection) **as diarrhoea with a positive *C. difficile* toxin test**

**OR results of *C. difficile* toxin test pending AND a clinical suspicion of C. *difficile* infection.**

**The NICE** [**guideline [NG199]**](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng199) **on antimicrobial prescribing for *C. difficile* infection in adults, young people, and children aged ≥ 3 days sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy aiming to optimise antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic resistance**.

[**NICE guidance**](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng199) **on *C. difficile* Infection treatment options for adults ≥ 18 years**

* **First line for first episode of mild, moderate, or severe *C. difficile* infection: Vancomycin** 125mg orally four times a day for 10 days
* **Second line (used if first line is ineffective) for first episode of mild, moderate, or severe *C. difficile* infection**: **Fidaxomicin** 200mg orally twice a day for 10 days.
* **Further episode of *C. difficile* infection within 12 weeks of symptom resolution (relapse):**

**Fidaxomicin** 200mg orally twice a day for 10 days

* **Further episode of *C. difficile* infection more than 12 weeks after symptom resolution (recurrence):**

**Vancomycin** 125mg orally four times a day for 10 days OR Fidaxomicin 200mg orally twice a day for 10 days

See the [BNF](https://bnf.nice.org.uk/) for appropriate use in specific populations, for e.g., hepatic /renal impairment, pregnancy, and breastfeeding. See [NICE guideline](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng199) for treatment advice in children and young people under 18 years.

**Due to the high cost of Fidaxomicin, it is NOT held in stock in community pharmacies and will only be ordered upon receipt of a prescription. To ensure timely commencement of treatment, it is advisable to liaise with the patient’s named pharmacy as soon as possible to alert them about the prescription. Urge the patient/carer to promptly notify if they are struggling to obtain it from local pharmacies**.

**Fidaxomicin is LSCMMG rated as AMBER 0. It is suitable for prescribing in primary care following recommendation or initiation by the microbiologist.**

Fidaxomicin tablets have recently been additionally licensed to be given as an ‘extended-pulsed regime’ (for adults only).

As per [Fidaxomicin SmPC](https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/12142/smpc) **adult** dosing regimens are:

**Standard dosing:** Fidaxomicin 200mg orally twice a day for 10 days **OR**

**Extended-pulsed regime:** Fidaxomicin 200 mg tablets twice a day on days 1-5 (no intake of a tablet on day 6) then 200mg once daily on alternate days for days 7-25. **This regime is not first line and will only be prescribed following microbiologist advice. This regime does not currently appear in NICE NG199**