

# ADULT INTERMITTENT (PULSED) INFUSION VANCOMYCIN

## Prescribing and Monitoring Flowchart

**Note:** for full vancomycin dosing guidelines refer to the current edition of Therapeutics: A Handbook for Prescribing in Adults.

### Step 1: Prescribe **LOADING DOSE** and **MAINTENANCE** regimen

- Prescribe on Vancomycin Prescribing, Administration & Monitoring Chart **AND** on inpatient kardex.
- **If creatinine is known:** Use online calculator located on StaffNet to calculate dose.
- **If creatinine is not known:** Calculate loading dose using **ACTUAL BODY WEIGHT**. Use online calculator to calculate maintenance dose when creatinine is available.
- **If online calculator unavailable:** refer to the current edition of Therapeutics: A Handbook for Prescribers for dosing tables.
- Maintenance doses are based on Creatinine Clearance (CrCl). **DO NOT USE eGFR.**

### Step 2: Monitor vancomycin concentration and reassess regimen

#### STABLE RENAL FUNCTION

- Check first vancomycin trough (pre-dose) concentration within 48 hours of starting therapy.
- Monitor Creatinine daily.
- If renal function is stable give next dose before vancomycin level is available.
- Take subsequent trough levels every 2 to 3 days.

#### UNSTABLE RENAL FUNCTION (e.g a change in creatinine of > 15 – 20%)

- Check vancomycin trough (pre-dose) concentration on a **DAILY** basis.
- Monitor Creatinine daily.
- If renal function is **deteriorating**, withhold next dose until level is available.
- Ensure vancomycin dose is reviewed according to changing renal function and trough levels.

- Target trough vancomycin concentration range = **10 - 20 mg/L**
- **Note:** If patient is **seriously ill** (severe or deep-seated infections) target range = **15 – 20 mg/L**
- Record exact times of all blood samples on Vancomycin Prescribing, Administration & Monitoring chart **AND** sample request form.

\*\*\* Concentrations are meaningless unless dose and sample time are recorded accurately \*\*\*

**For interpretation of levels and adjustment of doses refer to Vancomycin Prescribing, Administration & Monitoring Chart or the current edition of Therapeutics: A Handbook for Prescribers for guidance. Seek advice from pharmacy/microbiology if you need help to interpret result.**