

## Clinical Policy: Vancomycin Oral (Vancocin)

Reference Number: AZ.CP.PMN.166

Effective Date: 11.5.19

Last Review Date: 02.21

Line of Business: Arizona Medicaid (AzCH-CCP and Care1st)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

### Description

Vancomycin oral (Vancocin<sup>®</sup>) is a glycopeptide antibiotic.

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

Vancocin is indicated for the treatment of:

- *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhea
- Enterocolitis caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* (including methicillin-resistant strains)

Limitation(s) of use: Orally administered Vancocin is not effective for other types of infections.

### Policy/Criteria

*Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.*

It is the policy of Arizona Complete Health-Complete Care Plan and Care1st that vancomycin oral is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. *Clostridium difficile*-Associated Diarrhea (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhea;
2. Dose does not exceed 2 g per day.

**Approval duration** (*see Appendix D*):

**Initial Episode: Up to 14 days**

**Recurrent Episode: Up to 12 weeks**

##### B. Staphylococcal Enterocolitis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of staphylococcal enterocolitis;
2. Dose does not exceed 2 g per day.

**Approval duration: Up to 10 days**

##### C. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): AZ.CP.PMN.53 for Arizona Medicaid.

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Vancomycin Oral

#### II. Continued Therapy

##### A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 2 g per day.

**Approval duration: Up to 12 weeks**

##### B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.

**Approval duration: Duration of request or 12 months (whichever is less); or**

2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): AZ.CP.PMN.53 for Arizona Medicaid.

#### III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- ##### A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – AZ.CP.PMN.53 for Arizona Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents;

- ##### B. Systemic infections.

#### IV. Appendices/General Information

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

Not applicable

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s): hypersensitivity
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

*Appendix D: General Information*

- Oral vancomycin is not absorbed systemically and is not effective for other types of infection.
- Per 2017 IDSA guidelines for C. difficile-associated diarrhea, vancomycin and fidaxomicin are preferred first-line treatments for non-severe, recurrent, and severe disease in adults. Metronidazole is recommended as an alternative agent, if vancomycin and fidaxomicin are unavailable.
- FDA labeling and guidelines recommend duration of therapy to be 10 days. However, the guidelines recommend considering extending treatment to up to 14 days for patients with delayed response to treatment.

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Vancomycin Oral

- For first recurrence in adults, the following regimens are recommended per guidelines:
  - Standard vancomycin regimen for 10 to 14 days is a dosing regimen recommended particularly if metronidazole was used for the first episode
  - Tapered and pulsed regimen of vancomycin
    - Vancomycin PO 125 mg QID for 10 to 14 days, then BID for 1 week, then QD for 1 week, then every 2 or 3 days for 2 to 8 weeks.
  - Fidaxomylin PO 200 mg BID for 10 days
- Tapered and pulsed regimen of vancomycin for pediatrics (age less than 18 years):
  - Vancomycin PO 10 mg/kg QID (max 125 mg QID) for 10 to 14 days, then 10 mg/kg BID (max 125 mg BID) for 1 week, then 10 mg/kg QD (max 125 mg QD) for 1 week, then 10 mg/kg every other day (max 125 mg every other day) for 1 week, then 10 mg/kg (max 125 mg every 2 or 3 days) for 2 to 8 weeks.

#### V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
<i>C. difficile</i> -associated diarrhea	Adult (≥ 18 years): 125 mg to 250 mg PO QID Pediatric (<18 years): 40 mg/kg PO in 3 or 4 divided doses	2 g/day
Staphylococcal enterocolitis	Adult (≥ 18 years): 500 mg to 2 g PO in 3 or 4 divided doses/day Pediatric (<18 years): 40 mg/kg PO in 3 or 4 divided doses	2 g/day

#### VI. Product Availability

Oral capsules: 125 mg, 250 mg

#### VII. References

1. Vancocin Prescribing Information. Baudette, MN: ANI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; December 2017. Available at: <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=a078d9c2-f89c-4f9f-8ded-60ffb2983c3f>. Accessed August 14, 2018.
2. Pelaez T, Alcalá L, Rodríguez-Creixems M, et al. Reassessment of *Clostridium difficile* susceptibility to metronidazole and vancomycin. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2002;46:1647-1650.
3. Joyce AM, Burns, DL. Recurrent *Clostridium difficile* colitis: Tackling a tenacious nosocomial infection. *Postgradmed*. 2002;112(5):53-54, 57-58, 65.
4. Musher DM, Logan N, Hamill RJ et al. Nitazoxanide for the treatment of *Clostridium difficile* colitis. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2006;43(4):421-427.
5. McDonald LC, Gerding DN, Johnson S, et al. Clinical practice guidelines for *Clostridium difficile* infection in adults and children: 2017 updated by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA). *Clin Infect Dis*. March 2018;66(7):987-994.

**CLINICAL POLICY**  
Vancomycin Oral

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy Created	11.5.19	01.2020
1Q2021 Annual Review. No changes made.	02.21	02.21
Added Care1st logo. Added verbiage to specify that criteria also applies to Care1st.	5.10.21	04.21

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Vancomycin Oral

recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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