

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

UPDATE

NHS

Wirral Community
Health and Care
NHS Foundation Trust



Taking action to prevent infection

Clostridioides difficile (C.diff)

December 2024

In this issue:

1. Reducing the use of inappropriate anti-motility drugs
2. Prompt sample collection
3. Access to Vancomycin in the community
4. Use of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI's)

The Wirral is seeing an increase in the number of people developing C.diff. We must work together to prevent and reduce the risk of C.diff for our patients. Prescribing antimicrobials wisely and following good infection prevention and control within our practice can help reduce the incidence of C.diff infection.

1. Reducing the use of inappropriate anti-motility drugs

Anti-motility drugs (Loperamide) can cause serious complications in C diff infection by lengthening the patient's exposure to the bacterial toxic effect in the gut and therefore should be avoided.

For patients who you are suspecting to have infectious diarrhoea review if they have self-administered loperamide and advise to avoid/stop as necessary.

2. Prompt sample collection

If infectious diarrhoea is suspected a stool sample must be requested for Culture and Sensitivity (C&S) and C.diff. Remember – stool samples are not required to check for C.diff clearance.

Educate the patient on the need to obtain a stool sample and return it to the practice promptly. If a stool specimen is generated outside of normal working hours this can be delivered to Arrowe Park Hospital lab reception or Bassendale lab reception (CH62 3QL - Unit 11).

3. Access to Vancomycin in the community

If C.diff is suspected or confirmed, it is important that patients receive clinical assessment and prompt C.diff treatment to prevent additional complications and hospital admissions.

Prescribing of C.diff treatment should be in line with the current version of the Pan Mersey Antimicrobial formulary.

The only pharmacy that is commissioned to keep stock of Vancomycin and Fidaxomicin is Allied Pharmacy at Arrowe Park Hospital 0151 677 6449. This is highlighted to GPs on scriptswitch.

4. Use of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI's)

Proton Pump inhibitors (PPI) may cause an increased chance of C.diff. Consideration should be given to reviewing and discontinuing PPIs

**For more information, visit www.wchc.nhs.uk or contact the IPC team:
0151 604 7750 or ipc.wirralct@nhs.net**