

Treatment of suspected or confirmed *Clostridioides difficile* (C.diff) Infection (CDI) in children (<18 years)

For all drug doses refer to the *BNF for Children* or *Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC)*

First episode

1st Line Option

Oral vancomycin FOUR times a day
Duration: 10 days

2nd Line Option

If vancomycin ineffective

Discuss with paediatric infection specialist

Oral fidaxomicin TWICE a day
Duration: 10 days

OR

High dose oral vancomycin FOUR times a day
PLUS

IV metronidazole THREE times a day
Duration: 10 days

(Review: IV metronidazole and consider discontinuation if patient improving)

Advise on:

- Drinking enough fluids to avoid dehydration.
- Preventing the spread of infection.
- Seeking medical help if symptoms worsen rapidly or significantly at any time

Life-threatening CDI or treatment failure

Seek urgent specialist advice, including surgical review

Life-threatening CDI including where any of the following is attributable to CDI:

Hypotension, admission to ICU, ileus or significant abdominal distension, change in mental status, WBC $\geq 35 \times 10^9/L$ or $< 2 \times 10^9/L$, serum lactate greater than 2.2 mmol/L, or end organ failure (including mechanical ventilation, renal failure).

Specialists may offer:

High dose oral vancomycin FOUR times a day
PLUS
IV metronidazole THREE times a day
Duration : 10 days

(Review: IV metronidazole and consider discontinuation if patient improving)

Recurrent infection

1st recurrence

Within ≤ 12 weeks (relapse)

More than 12 weeks (recurrence)

If initial treatment course was not completed - treat as 1st episode

Oral vancomycin FOUR times a day
Duration: 10 days

Oral fidaxomicin TWICE a day
Duration: 10 days

2nd recurrence

Discuss with paediatric infection specialist