



26th April 2023

Circular 017/23

RE: Vancocin Matrigel 125 mg Capsules

Dear Pharmacist,

Following recommendations from the HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) team, Vancocin® (vancomycin) Matrigel Capsules 125 mg will move from High Tech Arrangements (Code 88752) to the GMS Reimbursement List effective 1st May 2023.

From 1st May 2023, the product will no longer be required to be ordered through the High Tech Hub Ordering and Management System against a High Tech Prescription Form from a hospital. As this product has a GMS reimbursement code and agreed reimbursement price it may be ordered from wholesalers in the normal manner by the pharmacy and dispensed against a valid prescription. Reimbursement of this product under Community Drug Schemes can be claimed using the new GMS code as follows:

GMS Code	Product Description	Pack Size	Reimbursement Price
67029	Vancocin Matrigel 125 MG Caps	28	€110.52

Please find enclosed further information from Dr Eimear Brannigan, HSE Clinical Lead, Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) in relation to *Clostridioides difficile* infection treatment guidance.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement



Memo

To: Prescribers, Pharmacists, Consultant Microbiologists, Infectious Diseases Physicians, Antimicrobial Pharmacists
From: Dr Eimear Brannigan, HSE Clinical Lead, Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC)
Date: April 26th 2023
Subject: *Clostridioides difficile* infection treatment guidance (version 2.0)

Dear Colleagues,

HSE-AMRIC are delighted to publish the new national *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) treatment guidance to the established www.antibioticprescribing.ie from May 1st 2023. This new guidance is intended to support healthcare professionals in community and hospital settings involved in the care and treatment of adult patients with confirmed or suspected CDI.

From the May 1st 2023, the following changes will apply:

- **Vancomycin:** Vancocin® Matrigel Capsules 125 mg will move from High Tech Arrangements to the GMS Reimbursement List. Therefore, it will no longer be necessary for this product to be prescribed on a High Tech Prescription Form from a hospital. Any prescriber will be able to prescribe vancomycin capsules to a patient in line with treatment options set out in the CDI treatment guidance.
- **Fidaxomicin:** A GP may prescribe fidaxomicin, but must state the name and base hospital of the consulting Consultant Microbiologist or Infectious Diseases Physician on the prescription in order for the community pharmacy to process through the High Tech Arrangements. For hospital patients, the normal procedure for prescription of High Tech drugs must be followed.

The new treatment guidelines supersede the treatment recommendations provided in the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee guideline, Surveillance, Diagnosis and Management of *Clostridium difficile* Infection in Ireland, National Clinical Guideline No. 3 (2014).

For further information including comments from the Expert Advisory Group, overarching treatment principles and treatment tables for patients in both the community and hospital setting, please visit the www.antibioticprescribing.ie website to access the newly published CDI guidance when published on May 1st 2023.

Kind regards,

Dr. Eimear Brannigan, Clinical Lead