




Preventing Toxicity - Intravenous Vancomycin (Adults)

Vancomycin is a very effective antibiotic and widely used in the treatment of systemic infections caused by gram positive bacteria. It has a narrow therapeutic range that requires careful monitoring, as elevated levels can cause nephrotoxicity and, in some cases, ototoxicity (ear damage).

Further information for prescribing and monitoring of vancomycin for adults is in the Trust Antimicrobial Guidelines on the [Quris](#) platform.

EPR PowerPlans must be used to prescribe intravenous vancomycin:

-  Vancomycin IV (Adult): Initial therapy - loading dose and initial maintenance dose PowerPlan
-  Vancomycin IV (Adult): Maintenance therapy - adjusting maintenance doses post levels PowerPlan
-  Vancomycin IV (Adult): Renal impairment (eGFR less than 20mL/min/1.73m2) or dialysis PowerPlan

They have been designed to streamline the requesting and dosing processes to make prescribing as safe as possible.

Action points

- When IV Vancomycin is clinically indicated, always start by choosing the correct PowerPlan on EPR.
 - Choose the “*Vancomycin IV (Adult): Initial therapy – loading dose and initial maintenance dose PowerPlan*” for the first prescription.
 - This will allow prescription of the initial loading doses based on the patient’s weight, and support requesting the initial trough blood levels.
 - For prescribing further doses, use the “*Vancomycin IV (Adult): Maintenance therapy – adjusting maintenance doses post levels PowerPlan*”.
 - This will allow adjustment of the doses based on the trough levels recorded.
 - For inpatients with eGFR less than 20mL/min/1.73m² or on dialysis, a separate PowerPlan must be selected to appropriately dose this patient group.
- **Ongoing monitoring** of trough levels will be required.
 - Trough levels: take immediately before the dose is due.
- Further information is on the Trust Antimicrobial Guidelines on the intranet ([Quris](#)). The search bar can be used to find the Vancomycin monograph: [Vancomycin](#)
- Report any incidents relating to intravenous vancomycin via Ulysses to support further learning.