

Our ref: Fidaxomicin ordering in community pharmacies update

Date: 27th October 2025

To all community pharmacies

Re: Fidaxomicin ordering in community pharmacies

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your ongoing work and commitment during these pressured times.

As you will be aware, when fidaxomicin is prescribed it is vital that the antibiotic is started without delay. Therefore, if a patient presents with a prescription for fidaxomicin it is important to order it in urgently.

Fidaxomicin 200mg tablets and fidaxomicin 40 mg/ml granules for oral suspension can be ordered from Alliance Healthcare (the pharmacy will need an account with them).

- During usual pharmacy opening hours Alliance Healthcare offers a twice daily delivery Monday to Friday, as well as on a Saturday morning. Where a pharmacy has reduced opening hours (e.g. is closed on a Saturday) they are advised to liaise with local pharmacies and direct the patient to one that can obtain fidaxomicin urgently.
- Where a patient requires fidaxomicin between Friday evening and Sunday evening or on a bank holiday, there is an increased risk of a potential delay before treatment for *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) can be started. **To avoid any delay**, an emergency ordering service is available by calling Alliance Healthcare's customer service (0330 100 0449). The local Alliance Healthcare warehouse will arrange a courier to deliver the medication to the pharmacy within 12 hours. There will **not be a charge** for using this emergency ordering service. Tillotts Commercial Team is also available on 07387 016169
- **It is important to place the order for fidaxomicin urgently.** Please alert the prescriber immediately if there are any difficulties in obtaining fidaxomicin.

Background

Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI) affects the colon and usually presents as watery diarrhoea with an increased frequency often leading to dehydration, especially in at-risk individuals such as the elderly, frail and those that are institutionalised. Other common symptoms of CDI include fever and abdominal pain and tenderness.

Occasionally, in severe cases of CDI, toxins produced by the *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) bacterium can damage the lining of the colon leading to toxic megacolon and increasing the risk of sepsis and death.

Although CDI can affect patients with no known risk factors it is often associated with the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics where healthy bacteria are eradicated allowing opportunistic growth of *C. difficile*. Furthermore, *C. difficile* can live outside the body allowing the bacteria to spread easily; severe,

uncontrollable diarrhoea can leave spores of bacteria on surfaces which can then be picked up by others, thus spreading the infection further.

Treatment for CDI itself is a 10-day course of antibiotic, in line with national recommendations and often guided by local microbiologists.

Fidaxomicin is used to treat CDI which needs prompt treatment as it can lead to more serious infections of the intestines with severe inflammation of the bowel (pseudomembranous colitis). Some cases may be repeat episodes where there may be a relapse or a recurrence requiring urgent treatment.

Further information on *Clostridioides difficile* infection and antimicrobial prescribing can be found in the NICE guideline, NG199. [Overview | Clostridioides difficile infection: antimicrobial prescribing | Guidance | NICE](#)

We hope that this information is useful but please do let us know if you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AW', on a light yellow rectangular background.

Andrew White (ICB Chief Pharmacist)
and LSC ICB Medicines Optimisation Antimicrobial Stewardship task and finish group