



Patient & Family Guide
2025

Vancomycin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis



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Vancomycin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis

What is vancomycin?

- Vancomycin is an **antibiotic medication**. Antibiotics treat infections caused by bacteria.
- Vancomycin is used to treat **peritonitis**. This is an infection in the peritoneum (lining of your abdominal cavity that holds and protects organs like your stomach and liver). If you have peritonitis, your Renal team may tell you to take vancomycin.
- Symptoms of peritonitis include:
 - › A cloudy bag
 - › Abdominal pain
 - › Fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F)
- **You will only start taking vancomycin if your Renal team tells you to.**
- Your Renal team will show you how to give yourself vancomycin through your peritoneal solution.

What are the possible side effects?

- Like any medication, vancomycin may cause side effects. These include:
 - › Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
 - › Vomiting (throwing up)

- › Abdominal pain
- › Diarrhea (loose, watery poop). Talk to your health care provider if your diarrhea does not go away, happens more often, or changes consistency (how thick or watery it is).
- › Sore muscles
- › Throbbing back pain
- In rare cases, vancomycin may cause an allergic reaction.

Call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Department right away if you have any of the following:

- › Wheezing or trouble breathing
- › Chest tightness
- › Hives
- › Itchy rash
- › Swelling of your lips or body
- › Feeling faint
- › Severe (very bad) diarrhea
- › Flu-like symptoms (fever or chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose)
- › Ringing in the ears, hearing loss
- › General flushing (sudden feeling of warmth)

How do I give myself vancomycin?

- You will give yourself vancomycin through your peritoneal solution once every 5 days during a 6-hour **dwell**. This means the solution stays (dwells) in your peritoneal cavity for 6 hours.
- Vancomycin comes as a powder. It needs to be mixed with sterile water before it is added to your dialysis solution.

Mixing and adding vancomycin to a bag of solution

You will need:

- › Face mask
- › Vancomycin (500 mg vial)
- › Sterile water
- › Syringes with needles (2 or more)
- › Solu-I.V.[™] swabs (2% chlorhexidine gluconate with 70% alcohol)

Instructions:

1. Your dose of vancomycin is _____ mg to be given through your peritoneal solution once every 5 days during a 6-hour dwell.
2. Check the vial(s) of vancomycin for the correct name, strength, and expiry date.
3. Put on the face mask and wash your hands.

4. Open and check the bag of solution.
5. Remove caps from sterile water and vancomycin vial(s). Put a Solu-I.V.[™] swab on top of each vial and scrub for 30 seconds. Remove swabs and let the vials air dry.
6. Put a SOLU-I.V.[™] swab on the medication port of the bag of solution. Scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let the port air dry.
7. Open a 10 ml syringe with a needle. Twist the syringe together to tighten the needle.
8. Draw up 10 ml of air into the syringe.
9. Inject the air into the sterile water.
10. Draw up 10 ml of sterile water.
11. Inject the sterile water into the vancomycin vial **right away**. Remove the needle. Gently swirl the vial to mix until the powder is fully dissolved.
12. Put a new Solu-I.V.[™] swab on the vancomycin vial and scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let the vial air dry.
13. If you need a second vancomycin vial, repeat steps 6 to 11.
14. Using a new syringe, inject air into the vancomycin vial. It should look clear, **not cloudy**.

15. Draw up _____ mg (dose), which is _____ ml (amount), of **vancomycin from each vial** and inject it into the medication port on the bag of solution **right away**.
16. Mix by squeezing the port and turning the bag of solution upside down several times.
17. On your daily record sheet, write down the medication name (vancomycin), dose (500 mg), and time/date given.
18. Repeat these steps once every 5 days during a 6-hour dwell, as told by your Renal team.

Remember:

- Vancomycin should dwell for 6 hours.
- Mix the vancomycin right before your exchange, or as close as possible to it.
- 1 ml = 1 cc (Bottles are labelled with “ml” and syringes are labelled with “cc”.)
- **Only use the vial of sterile water 1 time.** Throw away the sterile water vial after using.
- Medication should always look clear when mixed with sterile water.
- Put used needles in a sharps container for disposal. **Do not** reuse syringes or needles.
- **Do not** reheat the bag of solution after adding the vancomycin.

Renal Dialysis Home Unit

› Phone: 902-473-2155

How do I store this medication?

- Store unopened vancomycin at room temperature away from light.
- After mixing and drawing up your dose of vancomycin, throw away the vial.
- **Do not** flush medications down the toilet or throw them out. Take any leftovers to a pharmacy for proper disposal.

If you have any questions about vancomycin, please talk to a member of your Renal team.

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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