DESCRIPTION	Clindamycin is a semi-synthetic antibiotic effective against aerobic Gram positive and anaerobic Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria. It inhibits protein synthesis by binding to the 50S ribosomal subunit[1,4] Clindamycin is indicated in the treatment of serious infections caused by gram positive bacteria resistant to other agents (e.g. Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) or in patients allergic to other agents (e.g. penicillin and/or cephalosporin allergy) and as an adjunct to standard beta-lactam antibiotics in specific clinical situations (e.g. severe Group A Streptococcal infections).
ChAMP INDICATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS	**IV and Oral : Category B: Monitored** ChAMP team to be informed of use and will review if ongoing therapy is required and does not meet specified indications. **Standard Indications:** • MRSA infection – neonate or skin, soft tissue, bone or joint infection • Severe pneumonia - neonate • Endocarditis and/or surgical prophylaxis – penicillin allergy • Skin, soft tissue, bone or joint infection (*S. aureus*) – penicillin allergy • Skin, soft tissue, bone or joint infection – severe or necrotising infection • Streptococcal sepsis/ toxic shock **Oral and topical: Category A: Unrestricted** This is not a restricted agent. Follow standard ChAMP guidelines where appropriate.
FORMULATIONS	150mg Capsules 150mg/mL Solution for Injection
DOSAGE	The doses listed below fall within the standard range. Higher doses may be prescribed for certain situations. This should be in consultation with Infectious Diseases or Microbiology consultants. **IV:** **Usual dose:** 10mg/kg/dose 8 hourly (maximum 4.8g/day)[2,3,4] **Severe infections:** 10mg/kg/dose 6 hourly (maximum 4.8g/day)[2,3,4] **Oral:** **Usual dose:** 7.5mg/kg/dose 8 hourly (maximum 1.8g/day)[2,3,4] **Neonates:** Please refer to neonatal clinical care drug protocols Neonatology Clinical Care Unit - Drug Protocols - Services A — Z - Women and Newborn Health Service
DOSAGE ADJUSTMENT	Dose reduction may be required in cases of significant renal or hepatic impairment. Contact Pharmacy for advice.[5]
RECONSTITUTION	Not applicable – Use solution prepared in pharmacy if available
ADMINISTRATION	**IV infusion:** Dilute to 12mg/mL or weaker and infuse over 10 – 40 minutes or at a rate no greater than 30mg/minute.[6,7] **Continuous infusion:** May be given over 24 hours by continuous infusion. Contact Pharmacy for advice. **Oral:** Swallow capsules whole with water. If the patient is unable to swallow capsules or the dose is not a multiple of 150mg then the capsule(s) may be opened and the contents of the capsule(s) dissolved in water, if only a portion of the mixture is required, draw up the required volume and discard the remaining solution. The contents of the capsule may be mixed in juice or soft food to disguise the taste. (NB. Clindamycin solution is extremely unpalatable – only use where no

	alternative exists) [4] Each dose should be followed by a glass of water to avoid oesophageal irritation.[1]
MONITORING	Hepatic function should be monitored weekly with prolonged therapy (i.e. longer than 7 days).[4,5]
ADVERSE EFFECTS	**Common:** diarrhoea (mild-to-severe), nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, rash, itch[1,3,4,7,8] **Rare:** *Clostridium difficile*-associated disease, toxic epidermal necrolysis, taste disturbance, anaphylaxis, blood dyscrasias, polyarthritis, jaundice, raised liver enzymes (with high doses); IV: hypotension, cardiac arrest (with rapid injection), thrombophlebitis; IM: pain, induration, sterile abscess. [1,3,4,7,8]
COMPATIBLE FLUIDS	Glucose 5% Glucose/sodium chloride solutions Sodium chloride 0.9% Hartmann's[4,6]
PRECAUTIONS	Clindmycin is contraindicated in patients with a previous hypersensitivity reaction to clindamycin, lincomycin or any of the ingredients contained in the product[1,7] Hypotension and cardiac arrest have been reported with rapid intravenous administration. Clindamycin should be diluted to a strength of 12mg/mL or less and rate of administration should **NOT** exceed 30mg/minute[6,7,3]
COMMENTS	Injection ampoule contains benzyl alcohol which may cause allergic reactions in some people.[1] Clindamycin has good oral bioavailability – consider switching to oral dosing as soo as clinically appropriate

Please note: The information contained in this guideline is to assist with the preparation and administration of **clindamycin**. Any variations to the doses recommended should be clarified with the prescriber prior to administration

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