

## SHC Vancomycin De-Escalation Guide

### Appropriate Vancomycin Use:

1. Documented infection/culture positive with:
  - a. MRSA/CoNS (MecA positive)
  - b. Other gram-positive infection for which vancomycin is a drug of choice
    - E.g. enterococcus (non-respiratory tract) that is ampicillin-resistant and vancomycin-susceptible
    - E.g. streptococcus that is penicillin-resistant and cephalosporin-resistant
2. Documented infection/no site cultures available and:
  - a. Severe skin or soft infection
  - b. Osteoarticular infection
  - c. Other serious deep infection (e.g. epidural abscess)
3. Severe beta-lactam allergy and documented gram-positive infection
  - a. Severe allergy includes history of type I immediate hypersensitivity (e.g., urticaria, angioedema, anaphylaxis, bronchospasm)
  - b. For a history of other serious reactions (Type II, III, or IV – e.g., hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, serum sickness, erythema multiforme, SJS/TEN, DRESS, etc), avoid the specifically implicated drug, but others in the class may be used (except for cephalosporins with same R group side chain). Consider consulting Allergy & Immunology.

### Discontinuation of vancomycin at 72 hours or earlier:

1. Cultures negative for organisms indicating need for vancomycin
  - a. Pneumonia when respiratory culture not available and MRSA nares screen is negative
  - b. Includes those with febrile neutropenia
  - c. Exceptions – see #2 above
2. Culture positive with gram positive organism susceptible to beta-lactams
  - a. MSSA/CoNS (MecA negative)
  - b. Enterococcus that is ampicillin susceptible
    - i. Respiratory culture positive with enterococcus is most commonly a colonizer and does not require treatment
  - c. Streptococcus that is penicillin- susceptible or cephalosporin-susceptible

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**References:** Liu C, Bayer A, Cosgrove SE, Daum RS, Fridkin SK, Gorwitz RJ, Kaplan SL, Karchmer AW, Levine DP, Murray BE, Rybak MJ. Clinical practice guidelines by the IDSA for the treatment of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in adults and children. *CID*. 2011 Feb 1;52(3):e18-55.  
Rybak M, et al. Therapeutic monitoring of vancomycin in adult patients: A consensus review of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the IDSA/SIDP; *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2009;66:82-98.



**Document Information**

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