VANCOCIN capsules

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The full CMI on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using VANCOCIN?

VANCOCIN contains the active ingredient vancomycin hydrochloride. It is an antibiotic used to treat serious infections involving the bowel.

For more information, see Section 1. Why am I using VANCOCIN? in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use VANCOCIN?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to vancomycin, similar antibiotics (such as teicoplanin), or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section 2. What should I know before I use VANCOCIN? in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with VANCOCIN and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section 3. What if I am taking other medicines? in the full CMI.

4. How do I use VANCOCIN?

- The dose of VANCOCIN varies from person to person. Your doctor will tell you how much to take.
- Swallow VANCOCIN capsules with a glass of water. It can be taken with or without food.

More instructions can be found in Section 4. How do I use VANCOCIN? in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using VANCOCIN?

Things you should do	• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using VANCOCIN. • Tell your doctor if the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days or if they become worse.
Things you should not do	• Do not stop taking your medicine or change the dosage without first checking with your doctor. • Do not take VANCOCIN capsules to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.
Driving or using machines	• Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how VANCOCIN affects you.
Looking after your medicine	• Keep the capsules in the blister pack until it is time to take them. • Keep it in a cool dry place, away from moisture, heat, or light where the temperature stays below 25°C.

For more information, see Section 5. What should I know while using VANCOCIN? in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Less serious side effects of VANCOCIN include indigestion, stomach ache, nausea, chills, diarrhoea, and vomiting.

More serious side effects of VANCOCIN include: frequent infections; bleeding or bruising more easily than normal; vertigo, dizziness, or tinnitus; itchy rash; loss of appetite; fatigue; changes in heartbeat; chest tightness, wheezing, and breathlessness; redness of the upper body or pain and muscle spasm of the chest and back; skin, blister and bleeding in the lips, eyes, mouth, nose, and genitals; and high fever and rash. Other serious side effects can occur several weeks after stopping VANCOCIN. These include severe stomach cramps or pain, severe, watery or bloody diarrhoea, and fever in combination with these symptoms.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section 6. Are there any side effects? in the full CMI.

VANCOCIN capsules

Active ingredient: *vancomycin hydrochloride*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using VANCOCIN.

You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using VANCOCIN.

Where to find information in this leaflet:

1. Why am I using VANCOCIN?
2. What should I know before I use VANCOCIN?
3. What if I am taking other medicines?
4. How do I use VANCOCIN?
5. What should I know while using VANCOCIN?
6. Are there any side effects?
7. Product details

1. Why am I using VANCOCIN?

VANCOCIN capsules contains the active ingredient vancomycin (as vancomycin hydrochloride).

VANCOCIN capsules are an antibiotic used to treat serious infections involving the bowel. It works by killing or stopping the growth of the bacteria causing your infection.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why VANCOCIN capsules have been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another purpose.

There is no evidence that it is addictive.

2. What should I know before I use VANCOCIN?

Warnings

Do not use VANCOCIN if:

- you are allergic to vancomycin, similar antibiotics (such as teicoplanin) or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
  Signs of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty in breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or any other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.
- the expiry date printed on the pack has passed.
- the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Check with your doctor if you:

- have any other medical conditions, especially the following:
  - kidney or liver disease
  - a special sensory impairment (e.g. blindness)
  - pre-existing hearing loss
  - inflammatory bowel disorders.
- take any medicines for any other condition.
- have had any allergy to any other medicines, any other substances, such as foods, preservatives, or dyes.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section 6. Are there any side effects?

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Do not take VANCOCIN capsules if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant unless you and your doctor have discussed the benefits and risks involved.

Do not take VANCOCIN capsules if you are breast feeding or plan to breast feed.

It is not recommended for use while breastfeeding as it is found in breast milk.

Use in the elderly or patients with kidney disease

Elderly patients or those with a pre-existing kidney condition may be more sensitive to the effects or side effects of this medicine.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with VANCOCIN and affect how it works. These include:

- some other medicines used to treat infections, such as amikacin, amphotericin, colistin, gentamicin, neomycin, tobramycin and piperacillin/tazobactam.
- cisplatin, an anticancer medicine
- some fluid tablets (diuretics), such as etacrynic acid and furosemide (frusemide)
- anaesthetic agents
- cholestyramine, a powder taken to lower cholesterol levels.
- suxamethonium or vecuronium, medicines used to relax muscles.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect VANCOCIN.

4. How do I use VANCOCIN?

How much to take

- Your doctor will tell you how many VANCOCIN capsules you need to take each day. This will depend on the type of infection. The dose varies from patient to patient.
- If you are elderly or have a pre-existing kidney condition, you may need to take fewer capsules.
- The total dose for children should not exceed 2 grams per day.

When to take it

VANCOCIN capsules can be taken with or without food.

How to take it

Swallow the capsules whole with a glass of water.

How long to take it

Continue taking VANCOCIN capsules for as long as your doctor tell you.

It is important to complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, even if you begin to feel better after a few days. If you do not, the bacteria causing your infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your capsules as you would normally.

If you are not sure whether to skip the dose, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.

If you have trouble remembering to take your tablets, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much

If you think that you have used too much VANCOCIN, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (**by calling 13 11 26**), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

5. What should I know while using VANCOCIN?

Things you should do

Tell your doctor if the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days or if they become worse.

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking VANCOCIN capsules, especially if you are being started on any new medicines.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking VANCOCIN capsules. VANCOCIN capsules may affect other medicines used during surgery.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking VANCOCIN capsules.

Things you should not do

Do not take VANCOCIN capsules to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not stop taking your medicine or change the dosage without first checking with your doctor.

If you stop taking it, your condition may worsen.

Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how VANCOCIN affects you.

Looking after your medicine

Keep the capsules in the blister pack until it is time to take them.

Keep VANCOCIN in a cool dry place, away from moisture, heat, or light where the temperature stays below 25°C.

For example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking VANCOCIN capsules.

This medicine helps most people with bacterial infections of the bowel, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
• indigestion • stomach ache • nausea • chills • diarrhoea • vomiting.	**Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.**

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
• frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers • bleeding or bruising more easily than normal • vertigo, dizziness or tinnitus (ringing in the ears) • itchy rash • loss of appetite • increase of liver enzymes • excessive breakdown of red blood cells causing tiredness and pale skin (haemolytic anaemia) • fatigue. **May occur several weeks after stopping VANCOCIN:** • severe stomach cramps or pain • severe, watery or bloody diarrhoea • fever, in combination with one of the above.	**Tell your doctor straight away if you notice any of these serious side effects.** Serious side effects are rare.
• irregular or fast heartbeat • chest tightness, chest pain, wheezing, breathlessness, difficulty breathing • redness of the upper body or pain and muscle spasm of the chest and back • skin blister and bleeding in the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals • high fever and rash.	**Call your doctor straight away or go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.** Serious side effects are rare.

Hearing loss has occurred in some patients taking VANCOCIN capsules. Most of these have occurred in patients who have pre-existing conditions such as kidney disease or partial hearing loss.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What VANCOCIN contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	125 mg capsules: Each capsule contains vancomycin hydrochloride equivalent to 125 mg vancomycin (125,000 I.U. vancomycin activity). 250 mg capsules: Each capsule contains vancomycin hydrochloride equivalent to 250 mg vancomycin (250,000 I.U. vancomycin activity).
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	• macrogol 6000 Capsule shell: • gelatin • indigo carmine • iron oxide red • titanium dioxide • iron oxide yellow (125 mg only) or iron oxide black (250 mg only)
Potential allergen	• may contain sulfites.

VANCOCIN capsules do not contain lactose, sucrose, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What VANCOCIN looks like

- 125 mg capsules: opaque peach and opaque blue hard gelatin capsules. Available in blister packs of 20 capsules.

  Australian Registration number: AUST R 14674

- 250 mg capsules: opaque mushroom grey and opaque blue hard gelatin capsules. Available in blister packs of 20 capsules.

  Australian Registration number: AUST R 14657

Who distributes VANCOCIN

Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd
Sydney, NSW
Australia

This leaflet was revised in March 2026.