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SAFETY ISSUES **Piperacillin-tazobactam**

Please note the following safety information:

1. Piperacillin-tazobactam is **a penicillin**. Therefore patients with a documented/known penicillin allergy should NOT receive this antibiotic.
2. Piperacillin-tazobactam is best administered via a short infusion. It is also possible to give the drug as a bolus.
3. There are differences in the formulation between generic and branded (Tazocin®) preparations of piperacillin-tazobactam.
4. The hospital provides the generic brand of piperacillin-tazobactam.
5. The hospital (generic) brand of piperacillin-tazobactam must NOT be co-administered or mixed with aminoglycosides e.g. gentamicin and amikacin.
6. Generic piperacillin-tazobactam must NOT be diluted/reconstituted with lactated ringer`s (Hartmann`s solution).

*****If in doubt please consult your ward pharmacy team, resident pharmacist or inpatient pharmacy.*****

SAFETY ISSUES **Vancomycin**

Please note the following safety information:

1. We have previously used the IV preparation of vancomycin (FLYNN Pharma Ltd) as an oral solution for the treatment of *C. difficile* infection as it is licensed for this purpose and is also more cost-effective than the capsules.
2. A new vancomycin IV preparation (DEMO brand) has recently been sourced and is currently being used in our hospitals. Unlike the previous preparation i.e. FLYNN Pharma Ltd (some vials are still currently in use), the new preparation from DEMO is **not licensed for oral use**.
3. All prescribers are requested to please use vancomycin capsules from now on for the treatment of *C. difficile* infection. **Please do NOT use the new formulation of intravenous vancomycin (DEMO brand) for the treatment of *C difficile* infection.**

*****If in doubt please consult your ward pharmacy team, resident pharmacist or inpatient pharmacy.*****