

This information is provided to facilitate the prescribing, supply and monitoring of linezolid in the Primary Care setting in NHS Lanarkshire

Category	<p>Linezolid is categorised as a Hospital Only medication with the following exception:</p> <p>Linezolid may be supplied in primary care for a maximum of 7 days only on the advice of an Infection Specialist, or as indicated by a positive culture and sensitivity report relevant to the current infection episode</p>
Dosing advice	<p>Oral: 600mg every 12 hours (maximum 7 days in Primary Care)</p> <p>Renal/Hepatic impairment - No adjustment required, however, use with caution due to limited clinical data.</p> <p>NHS indicative price = £328.44 for 10 x 600mg tablets (Sandoz Ltd)</p>
Contra-indications/ Cautions	<p>See BNF/SPC</p> <p>Contra-indications and interactions should be checked before prescribing</p> <p>Linezolid should not be prescribed in Primary care to patients with the following conditions as close monitoring is recommended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-existing myelosuppression, • Receiving concomitant medicines that might affect their blood counts, • Severe renal insufficiency.
Side Effects and Monitoring	<p>For full list of side effects see BNF/SPC.</p> <p>Monitoring is not normally required in short 7 day courses of linezolid</p> <p>If your patient shows any of the signs below please discontinue linezolid and consult an Infection Specialist urgently for advice on alternative antimicrobial management.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Myelosuppression (including anaemia, leucopenia, pancytopenia and thrombocytopenia) has been reported in patients receiving linezolid. 2. Peripheral neuropathy and optic neuropathy have been reported particularly in patients receiving linezolid for more than the maximum recommended duration of 28days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All patients should be advised to report any numbness or tingling felt in the extremities or any symptoms of visual impairment. <p>(Especially changes in visual acuity, changes in colour vision, blurred vision or visual field defects. Patients experiencing new visual symptoms should be evaluated promptly and referred to an ophthalmologist if necessary).</p> 3. Metabolic acidosis has been reported with the use of linezolid. Patients who develop signs and symptoms of metabolic acidosis including recurrent nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, a low bicarbonate level, or hyperventilation while receiving linezolid should receive immediate medical attention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients should be aware of what action to take if they develop signs of metabolic acidosis 4. Increased blood pressure (when linezolid combined with tyramine). See interactions 5. 'Serotonin syndrome' See interactions <p>▼ This medicine is monitored intensively by the MHRA and any side effect should be reported via the yellow card scheme.</p>

Interactions	<p>Linezolid is a reversible, non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) and interacts with certain food/drinks and other medications.</p> <p>Food/Drink Interactions</p> <p>Linezolid can cause increased blood pressure when taken with food/drinks that have a high tyramine content (more than 100mg per meal). Patients should be advised to avoid certain types of food/drinks e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature or aged cheese, liver, kidney, pickled herring, broad beans, game • Fermented or air-dried meats such as salami • Yeast extracts such as Bovril, Oxo, Marmite • Fermented soya bean products such as soy sauce • More than 500g dark chocolate • Protein diet supplements • Sour cream and yoghurt • Beer and wine • Peanuts and some fruits such as figs, grapes, oranges, pineapples, plums, prunes, raisins, avocados and tomatoes <p>Interactions with other medicines</p> <p>Linezolid has the potential to interact with many medicines.</p> <p>See BNF/SPC for more information about interactions and the stopping/starting of interacting drugs.</p> <p>Linezolid can interact with the SSRI, tricyclic and serotonin 5-HT1 receptor agonist classes of antidepressants. Patients should be observed closely for signs of 'serotonin syndrome' which include confusion, delirium, restlessness, tremor or blushing. Linezolid should not be taken with other MAOIs or within 14 days of stopping the MAOI.</p>
Supply	<p>On starting treatment with linezolid the prescriber should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribe on advice from an Infection Specialist only • Check for contra-indications/interactions • Provide patient education and patient information leaflet (Available here: Linezolid Patient Information Leaflet) • Prescribe no more than 7 days treatment
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Royal Pharmaceutical Society, British Medical Association. British National Formulary No 81 (March – September 2021). Accessed via www.medicinescomplete.com. 2. Pfizer Ltd. Summary of Product Characteristics for Linezolid 2mg/mL Solution for Infusion. Last updated 26/02/18. Accessed via www.medicines.org.uk. 3. Pfizer Ltd. Summary of Product Characteristics for Linezolid 600mg Film Coated Tablets. Last updated 29/09/20. Accessed via www.medicines.org.uk.
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