

Clindamycin Solution

Pfizer is the sole Canadian supplier of clindamycin in a liquid form for oral administration. ¹

DIN	Company	Brand Name	Active Ingredient	Strength
00225851	PFIZER CANADA INC	DALACIN C FLAVOURED GRANULES	CLINDAMYCIN (CLINDAMYCIN 2- PALMITATE HYDROCHLORIDE)	75 MG /5 ML

Official indications²:

- Serious infections due to sensitive anaerobic bacteria, such as *Bacteroides* species, *Peptostreptococcus*, anaerobic streptococci, *Clostridium* species and microaerophilic streptococci.
- Serious infections due to sensitive gram-positive aerobic organisms (staphylococci, including penicillinase-producing staphylococci, streptococci and pneumococci) when the patient is intolerant of, or the organism is resistant to other appropriate antibiotics.
- Prophylaxis against alpha-hemolytic (viridans group) streptococci before dental, oral and upper respiratory tract surgery.

Shortage management strategies:

- Is there a valid indication for clindamycin? For example, the number of conditions for which antibiotic prophylaxis before dental and other surgical procedures has been reduced over the past few years – check current guidelines. ^{3,4}
- Other formulations:
 - Clindamycin is available in 150 and 300 mg capsules. If this is the prescribed dose, can the patient be coached to take the drug in this form? See suggestions in medSask newsletter - *Can this tablet be crushed?*⁵
 - Open capsules and mix with water or food.
 - Note that Pfizer does not recommend opening capsules because there are no bioavailability or safety studies.⁶
 - Clindamycin is not listed as a substance of concern on lists of drugs which should not be crushed or opened.^{7,8} At least two British guidelines for formulations for people unable to take solid dosage forms suggest clindamycin capsules can be opened.^{9,10}
 - Clindamycin has a foul taste and smell; mix with food or liquid with strong flavor e.g. chocolate syrup, black current or cherry jam.¹⁰
 - Open capsule just before administering.⁶
 - Injectable clindamycin for serious susceptible infections

- Therapeutic alternatives:
 - Dental infections ^{4,11}
 - Penicillin VK +/- metronidazole
 - Penicillin allergy – tetracycline or doxycycline +/- metronidazole
 - Prophylaxis for alpha-hemolytic (viridans group) streptococci ¹¹
 - Amoxicillin, amoxicillin clavulanate
 - Penicillin allergy – tetracycline or doxycycline

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