

Subject: Ancotil® (flucytosine) intravenous discontinuation

Date: 20th January 2022 version 1

For: Consultant Microbiologists, Infectious Disease Physicians, Antimicrobial Pharmacists, Chief Pharmacists.

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Mylan has discontinued manufacturing Ancotil® (flucytosine) intravenous (IV) as the manufacturing site became bankrupt. This withdrawal of product affects multiple countries including Ireland. Stock in Ireland is now depleted. There may be access to some EMP* flucytosine IV via appropriately authorised EMP suppliers.

There are no oral flucytosine products authorised and marketed in Ireland. There may be access to oral flucytosine-containing medicines as EMPs via appropriately authorised EMP suppliers. Flucytosine has good oral bioavailability with figures of 78-90% quoted, therefore, from the outset of treatment, if appropriate and accessible, oral flucytosine should be used.

In Ireland, the most common indication for flucytosine use is in the induction treatment of cryptococcal meningitis in patients with HIV. For this indication its use is in combination with amphotericin. This is the preferred treatment approach according to published guidelines.

If parenteral treatment is necessary for the initial management of cryptococcal meningitis a suggested alternative to flucytosine, depending on predicted or established antimicrobial susceptibility, is fluconazole, i.e. amphotericin plus fluconazole (WHO 2018).

This is a general guide and is not intended to replace more targeted therapy selection based on antimicrobial susceptibility testing and clinical judgement.

References

WHO 2018. Guidelines For The Diagnosis, Prevention And Management Of Cryptococcal Disease In Hiv-Infected Adults, Adolescents And Children.

Perfect *et al* 2010. Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Cryptococcal Disease: 2010 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2010; 50:291–322

ENDS

* EMP = exempt medical product. An exempt medicinal product (EMP) is a medicinal product that is not authorised or registered in Ireland