

Linezolid – Prescriber Information

This information is provided to facilitate the prescribing, supply and monitoring of linezolid from primary care in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes ICS.

Category	Linezolid is an oxazolidinone antibiotic with activity against gram positive bacteria; it has no gram negative cover. Linezolid may be prescribed for Gram positive infections e.g. skin and soft tissue infection known to be sensitive to linezolid on the recommendation of a Consultant Microbiologist.
Dosing Advice	Oral and Intravenous infusion: 600mg every 12 hours. The maximum licensed duration of treatment is 28 days. Renal/Hepatic impairment – No adjustment required. Refer to SPC ¹ for further detail. Drug tariff price (September 2023): £333.14 for 10 x 600mg tablets and £222.50 for 150ml of 100mg/5ml oral suspension
Responsibilities	GPs can prescribe linezolid under the specialist direction of a Consultant Microbiologist ONLY. Note: Community pharmacists will not routinely stock this product so it would be prudent to communicate with the patient's regular pharmacy to expect a prescription. It is the responsibility of the hospital discharging team to organise monitoring if the patient is discharged while on treatment.
Contraindications and Cautions	For a full list of contraindications and cautions please see the SPC ¹ Linezolid should not be used in patients taking any medicinal product which inhibits monoamine oxidases A or B (e.g. phenelzine, isocarboxazid, selegiline, moclobemide) or within two weeks of taking any such medicinal product. Unless there are facilities available for close observation and monitoring of blood pressure, linezolid should not be administered to patients with the following underlying clinical conditions or on the following types of concomitant medications: - Patients with uncontrolled hypertension, phaeochromocytoma, carcinoid, thyrotoxicosis, bipolar depression, schizoaffective disorder, acute confusional states. - Serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants, serotonin 5-HT ₁ receptor agonists (triptans), directly and indirectly acting sympathomimetic agents (including the adrenergic bronchodilators, pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine), vasopressive agents (e.g. epinephrine, norepinephrine), dopaminergic agents (e.g. dopamine, dobutamine), pethidine or buspirone.

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<p>Monitoring</p>	<p>Monitor full blood count (including haemoglobin, platelets and total and differentiated leucocyte count) at baseline and ONCE WEEKLY for the duration of therapy.</p> <p>More frequent monitoring is required if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration of treatment is longer than 10-14 days • Severe renal impairment • Pre-existing myelosuppression • Concomitant medicines that might affect their blood counts <p>Monitor visual function in patients prescribed courses longer than 28 days</p>
<p>Toxicities</p>	<p>For a full list of side effects please see the SPC¹</p> <p>Myelosuppression (particularly in the elderly) including anaemia, leucopenia, pancytopenia and thrombocytopenia has been reported in patients receiving linezolid. If significant myelosuppression occurs during linezolid therapy, treatment should be stopped and discussed with the Consultant microbiologist. If it is considered absolutely necessary to continue therapy intensive monitoring of blood counts and appropriate management strategies should be implemented.</p> <p>Peripheral neuropathy and optic neuropathy have been reported particularly in patients receiving linezolid for more than 28 days. All patients should be advised to report symptoms of visual impairment, such as changes in visual acuity, changes in colour vision, blurred vision, or visual field defect. If any patients are taking linezolid for longer than the recommended 28 days, their visual function should be regularly monitored.</p> <p>Serotonin Syndrome may occur due to drug-drug interaction between linezolid and serotenergic agents (see cautions and contraindications). Patients should be observed closely for signs of 'serotonin syndrome' which include confusion, delirium, restlessness, tremor or blushing.</p>
<p>Interactions</p>	<p><u>Drug Interactions</u></p> <p>Linezolid should not be used in patients taking any medicinal product which inhibits monoamine oxidases A or B (e.g. phenelzine, isocarboxazid, selegiline, moclobemide) or within two weeks of taking any such medicinal product.</p> <p>Unless there are facilities available for close observation and monitoring of blood pressure, linezolid should not be administered to patients on the following types of concomitant medications due to the risk of serotonin syndrome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants, serotonin 5-HT₁ receptor agonists (triptans), directly and indirectly acting sympathomimetic agents (including the adrenergic bronchodilators, pseudoephedrine and

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	<p>phenylpropanolamine), vasopressive agents (e.g. epinephrine, norepinephrine), dopaminergic agents (e.g. dopamine, dobutamine), pethidine or buspirone.</p> <p><u>Food / drink interactions</u></p> <p>Linezolid can cause increased blood pressure when taken with food/drinks that have a high tyramine content (more than 100mg). Patients should be advised to avoid consuming excessive amounts of tyramine rich foods e.g. mature cheese, yeast extracts, soya bean extracts, draught beers and wine.</p>
Counselling points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients should be advised to report immediately any visual disturbances or impairment. • Avoid consuming excessive amounts of tyramine rich foods e.g. mature cheese, yeast extracts, soya bean extracts, draught beer and wines. • Patients should be advised not to take any OTC medicines e.g. decongestant cold and flu remedies, without first consulting their medical team.
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pfizer Ltd. Summary of Product Characteristics for Zyvox 600mg film coated tablets. Last updated September 2018. Accessed in September 2023 at Zyvox 600 mg Film-Coated Tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc) (medicines.org.uk) .

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