Pivmecillinam
Information for Prescribers

NHS Lanarkshire

This information is provided to facilitate the prescribing of pivmecillinam in acute and primary care settings within NHS Lanarkshire when recommended by an Infection Specialist (or as indicated by positive culture and sensitivity report) for suspected or proven multidrug resistant (MDR) urinary tract infections (UTI) in adults.

What is Pivmecillinam?	Pivmecillinam is a penicillin-like beta-lactam antibiotic that is highly active against most Enterobacteriaceae, including *E.coli* and *Klebsiella*. It is however inactive against *Pseudomonas*.
How does it work?	Pivmecillinam is an orally active pro-drug that is hydrolysed to the active drug, mecillinam. Like the penicillins and cephalosporins, pivmecillinam interferes with the biosynthesis of the bacterial cell wall although the target for inhibition is different.
Therapeutic Indications	Pivmecillinam can be used as an alternative oral antibiotic to treat urinary tract infections (UTIs) not responding to first line treatment or multi-drug resistant UTIs, where the organism has been identified as susceptible to mecillinam.
Dosing Advice	400mg every eight hours for THREE days in females and SEVEN days in males. Tablets should be swallowed whole with plenty of water whilst in upright position, and preferably taken with or after a meal. **NHS Indicative Price = £5.40 for 10 x 200mg pack**
Contraindications/ Cautions	*For a full list see BNF/SPC.* Pivmecillinam is contraindicated in penicillin or cephalosporin hypersensitivity, carnitine deficiency, gastrointestinal obstruction, acute porphyria, infants under 3 months, and in patients with oesophageal strictures
Adverse Effects	*For a full list see BNF/SPC.* The most frequently reported adverse effects are gastrointestinal disorders such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Other reported adverse effects include dizziness, headache, urticarial rash, mouth ulcers and oesophagitis. There is also a risk of reduced serum and total body carnitine especially with long term or repeated use.
Interactions	*For full list see BNF/SPC.* Concurrent treatment with valproic acid or valproate should be avoided due to increased risk of carnitine depletion.
References	1. Royal Pharmaceutical Society, British Medical Association. British National Formulary No 81 (March - September 2021) Accessed via www.medicinescomplete.com 2. Leo Laboratories Ltd. Summary of Product Characteristics for Selexid® tablets. Last updated 08/07/19'. Accessed via www.medicines.org.uk
Further Information	Further guidance can be obtained from your local microbiology department/antimicrobial pharmacists.

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