# Louth: Antimicrobial Guidelines - Louth Hospitals: Antimicrobial Guidelines: Gastrointestinal Infections

### Indication

Acute Gastro-Enteritis

#### First Line Antimicrobials

Empiric antibiotics are not usually required pending culture results and may be harmful in cases of verocytotoxogenic E. coli (VTEC) infection.

#### Comments

f infectious diarrhoea is suspected or confirmed, inform Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) and isolate patient with standard and contact precautions.

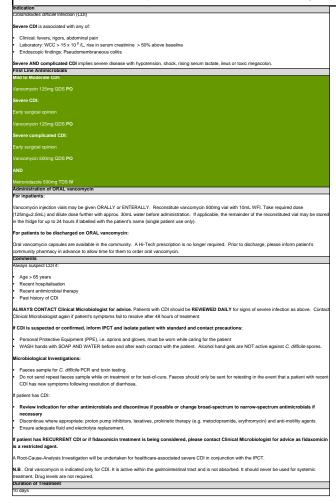
There are many potential underlying causes in a patient presenting with diarrhea – the following mnemonic ( **SIGHT** ) may be helpful in the initial management of diarrhea of unknown cause:

- S Suspect the diarrhea may be due to an infective cause
- I Isolate the patient
- G Gloves and aprons to be worn by healthcare workers in contact with the patient and his/her environment
- H Hand hygiene with soap and water is preferred (alcohol-based hand rubs are not effective against spores of C. difficile)
- T Test for faeces for C. difficile and enteric pathogens that cause infective diarrhoea.

## Microbiological Investigations:

- Blood cultures if systemically unwell
- Send faeces sample for faeces culture, C. difficile test and Norovirus
- Discuss with Consultant Microbiologist whether additional investigations are indicated if patient immunocompromised or history of recent foreign travel.

Public Health notification is required for cases of salmonellosis, shigellosis, campylobacterioisis or VTEC infection.



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