

Cephalosporin Therapeutic Interchange Update

The oral third generation cephalosporin, cefdinir (eg., Omnicef), was recently added to the formulary of the clinical enterprise and the therapeutic interchange policy for the cephalosporin agents used in adult and pediatric patients has been updated and approved by the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) and the Medical Staff Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee. Changes will be formally implemented on or around June 5th, 2014. Cefdinir will replace cefuroxime as the preferred formulary agent for the oral 3rd generation cephalosporins.

Cefdinir is a third generation cephalosporin with a similar spectrum of activity as other 3rd generation oral cephalosporins (i.e. cefditoren, cefixime, cefpodoxime, ceftibuten) and is active against Streptococci, common respiratory tract pathogens (*Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *H. influenza*), and many enteric Gram-negative rods (*E. coli*, *Klebsiella*).¹ Cefdinir has no activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, Enterococci, and Gram-negative anaerobes. Adult dosing of cefdinir is 300 mg by mouth twice daily and pediatric dosing of cefdinir is 7 mg/kg by mouth twice daily.

¹Gilbert DN, et al. The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy. 43rd Edition. Sperryville, VA: Antimicrobial Therapy, Inc; 2013.

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