

Galway: GAPP - Galway Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy / Guidelines (GAPP): Viral

Viral

Treatment of Viral Infections		
Infection	Treatment	Comment
Herpes simplex - Cold sores	Aciclovir 5% cream every 4 hours (5 times daily) for 5 to 10 days, starting at onset of symptoms	Most effective when applied at the earliest possible stage - at prodromal stage before vesicles appear. Systemic treatment is necessary if frequent recurrences or for extensive infections.
Herpes simplex – <i>Including</i> <i>Mouth/lips</i> <i>and</i> <i>Genital herpes</i>	Treatment: ValACiclovir PO 500mg every 12 hours (1g every 12 hours in immunocompromised) Initial: Treat for 5 to 10 days Recurrent: Treat for 3 to 5 days (5 to 10 days in immunocompromised)	If genital herpes refer to STI clinic. Higher dose or IV aciclovir may be required in severe infection/immunocompromised. Discuss with Microbiology or Infectious Diseases.
Herpes zoster (shingles)	ValACiclovir PO 1g every 8 hours for 7 days (in immunocompromised continue for 2 days after crusting of lesions)	Discuss with Microbiology or Infectious Diseases if severe disease , i.e. ocular, neurologic, disseminated disease or immunocompromised.
Herpes simplex encephalitis	See Herpes Simplex Encephalitis Section	

Refs:

1. BASHH UK National Guideline for the Management of Anogenital Herpes [2014](#)
2. The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy App accessed online February 2024
3. HSE Antibiotic prescribing Genital Herpes accessed January 2024