Didanosine, a purine nucleoside (adenosine) analog which inhibits HIV replication in both T cells and monocytes. Its metabolites act as substrate and inhibitor of HIV reverse transcriptase thereby blocking viral DNA synthesis and as a result suppressing HIV replication.

**Pre-authorization Criteria:** treatment of HIV-1 infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents

*Note:* VCHCP requires that Combivir be prescribed by an Immunology Clinic physician with current American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) certification or a physician boarded in Infectious Disease.

**Dosing:** 25 kg to <60 kg: 250 mg once daily

≥60 kg: 400 mg once daily

**How Supplied:** capsule: 125 mg, 200 mg, 250 mg, 400 mg

**Adverse Reactions/Precautions:** U.S Boxed Warning: 1) Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis have been reported, including fatal cases, with nucleoside analogues, alone or in combination, including didanosine and other antiretrovirals; 2) Pancreatitis (fatal and nonfatal) has been reported alone or in combination regimens in both treatment-naive and treatment-experienced patients, regardless of degree of immunosuppression. Suspend use in patients with suspected pancreatitis and discontinue in patients with confirmed pancreatitis; central fat redistribution; immune reconstitution syndrome; peripheral neuropathy; optic neuritis; administer on an empty stomach (absorption is significantly decreased with food)
Drug Interactions: numerous; see product literature

REFERENCES:


Videx EC (didanosine) [prescribing information]. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb; December 2012.
Videx EC (didanosine) [product monograph]. Montreal, Canada: Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada; April 2016.

Revision History:

Date Developed: 12/07/16 by R. Sterling, MD
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<table>
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<th>Revision Date</th>
<th>Content Revised (Yes/No)</th>
<th>Contributors</th>
<th>Review/Revision Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD</td>
<td>Annual review</td>
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