Criteria for Use of Quinupristin/dalfopristin (Synercid®)

Quinupristin/dalfopristin:

Quinupristin/dalfopristin (Synercid™) is a combination of semi-synthetic streptogramin antibiotics. Quinupristin/dalfopristin is bacteriostatic against *Enterococcus faecium* (including vancomycin-resistant isolates, VRE) and bactericidal against *S. aureus* and coagulase-negative staphylococci (including methicillin and/or vancomycin-resistant isolates), *S. pneumoniae* (including penicillin- and macrolide-resistant isolates). Quinupristin/dalfopristin is **not** active against *E. faecalis*).

Due to the high specificity of this antibiotic and the potential for the development of resistance, each facility should define a system for approval for use of the drug to avoid overuse. This antibiotic should only be used in consultation with an Infectious Disease (ID) specialist, except when consultation is not available in a timely manner. Use of quinupristin/dalfopristin should be reserved for serious infections for which there are no alternative antimicrobial therapy.

In general, quinupristin/dalfopristin should NOT be used for the following: community acquired pneumonia, antimicrobial prophylaxis or decolonization of patients, regardless of the organism found in culture (includes urinary tract colonization or bacteruria).

Quinupristin/dalfopristin may be given to patients under the following condition:

1. Proven serious, life-threatening infections or sepsis by vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium* (not colonization)

OR

2. Documented skin or skin-structure infections due to Staphylococci, which are resistant to beta-lactams, macrolides, clindamycin and co-trimoxazole (e.g., MRSA)

And

i. Proven vancomycin resistance

Or

ii. Infection in patients who are intolerant of vancomycin secondary due to true vancomycin allergy or to serious adverse drug reaction to vancomycin

Data are insufficient to determine whether quinupristin/dalfopristin is useful in MRSA infections that are unresponsive to vancomycin therapy

Note: Quinupristin/dalfopristin is available by intravenous administration only and has not been approved by the FDA for treatment of MRSA. Patients will require a central or PICC access for the administration of the drug because of the adverse effects on peripheral veins.