

Information for Patients receiving Intravenous
Antibiotics (IVs) in the home or outpatient setting

Shropshire Out-Patient Antimicrobial Therapy Service



Name of IV antibiotic

.....

Dose/ Frequency

.....

Date started

.....

Date of review / completion

.....

Type of vascular access device

.....

Date inserted

.....

Named team

.....

Contact number

.....

During the hours of

.....

Introduction

You are receiving intravenous (IV) antibiotics to help you get better. Intravenous means the antibiotics go straight into a blood vessel called a vein.

Treatment can be given in an outpatient setting or in your own home if you are housebound. Your treatment will be given by trained community nurses who work 7 days a week.

Why do I need antibiotics?

We use IV antibiotics to treat bacterial infections. In some cases, IV antibiotics are better than antibiotics tablets.

How long will I need treatment?

This will depend on the infection we are giving you treatment for.

The length of time you take the antibiotics for may change.

You may change to an antibiotic tablet when you start to get better.

How will they be given?

We give IV treatments through a **Vascular Access Device (VAD)**.

We will use one of the following, depending on your health problem:

- A cannula – this is a thin, plastic tube put in to a vein in your arm or hand
- A midline – this is similar to a cannula. It is a longer length. It can stay in place for up to 28 days
- A central line– this is a long, thin tube put into a vein in your chest. We may use this if you need treatment for a long time.

How do I care for my VAD?

VADs are held in place by a clear sterile dressing. The nurse will check it every day.

The dressing is waterproof. You can shower or bath with the

cannula in your hand or arm.

If you have a cannula it can come out of place and may bleed. If this happens, there is no need to panic. If you can, take the cannula out. Cover the area with a clean tissue or cotton wool and press hard. The bleeding will normally stop in a few minutes and you can put a plaster on. The nurse will put the cannula back in when you next see them.

Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. You will find a list in the box with the medicines.

Most people do not have problems. If you have any of the following new symptoms speak to the nurse.

- Redness (flushing of skin)
- Nettle rash (hives)
- Racing heartbeat (palpitations)
- Sudden light-headedness or dizziness
- Tummy pain
- Feeling or being sick
- Feeling tired and weak

In very rare cases some people have very bad allergic reactions. This is called anaphylaxis. If you have any of the following symptoms:

- Swelling of the throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Wheezing or sudden shortness of breath

If you have these symptoms call 999. Tell them you are having IV antibiotics and may be having an allergic reaction.

How do I look after my antibiotics?

Always make sure your antibiotics are kept in a cool place (not the fridge). Keep away from direct sunlight.

If you have an appointment take the antibiotics with you in the bag used by the pharmacy.

Do not carry medicines in your pocket. This can make them too warm and they may not work properly.

What should I do if I feel unwell?

If you have any of the following symptoms tell your named team or service:

- Raised temperature (fever) or shaking
- Dizziness,
- Red face (flushing) or rash
- Headache or feeling achy
- Feeling or being sick
- Runny, watery poo (diarrhoea)
- More pain, swelling, redness, or blistering where you have the infection
- More pain, swelling, redness or blistering where the Vascular Access Device (VAD) is.

Who to contact?

The Community IV team are available 7 days a week. They will answer questions you may have about your treatment.

Where possible contact your named team or service. The details are on the front of this leaflet.

Or you can contact the DAART Outpatient service on 01743 261095

- Monday to Friday 08.30am to 7.00pm
- Weekends and Bank Holidays 08.30am to 4.00pm

Outside of these hours contact NHS 111.

If you become unwell for any other reason whilst on IV treatment you should contact your GP or NHS111. If you are very unwell call 999.

How can I help to reduce infections?

Keeping your hands clean to help stop the spread of infections.

Anyone visiting the hospital should use hand sanitiser when they arrive or when they leave.

Notes:

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

Further information is available from:



Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback which can be shared in a number of ways through the hospital website. Scan the QR code to give feedback. www.sath.nhs.uk/patients-visitors/patient-experience/feedback-hub/

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS will act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns, they can also help you get support from other local or national agencies. PALS, is a confidential service.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Tel: [0800 783 0057](tel:08007830057) or [01743 261691](tel:01743261691)

Princess Royal Hospital, Tel: [01952 282888](tel:01952282888)

Other Sources of Information

NHS 111

A fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

111 (free from a landline or mobile) www.nhs.uk

Self Help & Support Groups

A selection of websites providing access to good quality health information, local organisations and community groups is available from the library. www.library.sath.nhs.uk/find/patients/

Information in Other Languages or Formats

If you require this information in a different way such as easy read, a different language, larger print, audio or braille please tell a member of staff or contact the Patient Experience Team;

sath.patientexperience@nhs.net or [01743 261000](tel:01743261000) ext. 2503.

Your information

Information about you and your healthcare is held by the NHS. You can find out more about how we hold your information and how it is used on our website: www.sath.nhs.uk

Website: www.sath.nhs.uk

Information Produced by: The OPAT Team

Date of Publication: 01/11/23

Due for Review on: 01/11/26

©2023 SaTH NHS Trust

Version: 1

ID: OT/072

