

Cellulitis Outpatient Intravenous Antibiotics Service

You have been diagnosed with cellulitis, a skin infection. We have arranged for you to have your cellulitis treated either at home or in our ambulatory care areas. We hope you will find this more convenient than having to stay overnight in hospital. Your treatment will be coordinated by our OPAT (outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy) team and Ambulatory Care team.

What to expect:

1. You will be discharged from hospital with a cannula or PICC line.
2. We will organise for you to return for daily antibiotics in our ambulatory care area either at the Princess Royal Hospital or Royal Sussex County Hospital until our community team is ready to administer your antibiotics at home instead. The OPAT team will phone you once home treatment is available.
3. **Your treatment plan will include:**
 - I. Five days of antibiotics administered through your cannula or PICC line either in the ambulatory area or at home.
 - II. Arrangements for blood tests on day four.
 - III. An appointment to see a doctor on day five in an ambulatory care area.

Cannula care:

- Keep your cannula dry and covered with the dressing provided.
- If your cannula does come out, apply pressure with clean material or plaster. A new cannula will be inserted the next day.
- Occasionally the cannula site becomes infected. If skin around the cannula becomes red or painful call the OPAT team and leave a message and they will contact you or call your community IV team.

When to seek further medical advice:

Please contact the OPAT team, GP or call 111 if you feel your symptoms are worsening at home.

Worsening of symptoms may include:

- Feeling generally more unwell or feverish
- The skin area changing colour or the affected area dramatically increasing in size
- The skin becoming smelly.

Day five review in ambulatory care areas:

Expect to be in the unit for several hours. We will give you a dose of IV antibiotics and you will be seen by a senior doctor. Free tea, coffee and snacks are provided.

At Royal Sussex County Hospital go to ACU (weekday) or AMU (weekend). ACU is located on level 5 of the Thomas Kemp tower (the same floor as A&E). The entrance is next to the WRVS coffee and snack shop and the Acute Medical Unit.

At Princess Royal Hospital go to RAMU. RAMU is located next to A&E.

OPAT team phone number 01273 696955 Ext. 7056 (weekdays 9am - 5pm)

RAMU number (PRH) 01444 441881 Ext. 8557 (weekdays & weekends 9am - 8pm)

ACU number (RSCH) 01273 696955 Ext. 4174 (weekdays 8am - 6pm)

AMU number (RSCH) 01273 696955 Ext. 7511 (weekends 8am - 8pm)