



Information for
patients and
carers

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial
Therapy (OPAT)

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT)

Patients who need a course of intravenous antibiotics for treatment of infection do not always need to stay in hospital. If they are clinically stable and able to cope at home, treatment as an outpatient can be safe and effective, and has become routine practice for many hospitals.

Where will my intravenous antibiotics be delivered?

Most patients on OPAT come back to hospital each day for their intravenous antibiotics. Patients may either attend Royal Preston Hospital or Chorley District Hospital. The antibiotics will be administered at the following locations:

- Royal Preston Hospital - Clinical Investigation Unit (CIU) on Fellview, based in the Brock Assessment Unit. This is located towards the back of Preston hospital across from the Sharoe Green Unit
- Chorley District Hospital - Clinical Investigation Unit (CIU) on Astley ward, level 3

Will I go home with an intravenous device (line)?

Yes. The type of line that you will have depends on how long you need the antibiotics, and the type of antibiotics that you will receive. Your nurse will tell you what device is being used for you, but the devices that we most often use are:

- Peripheral cannula
- Peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC)
- Midline
- Tunnelled line
- Port-A-Cath

Will I still be reviewed by a doctor?

You will be closely reviewed by the OPAT team which includes consultant medical microbiologists, specialist nurses and an antimicrobial pharmacist. They will monitor your progress and ensure that you get the most appropriate antibiotics. You will also remain under the care of your hospital consultant who will review you, if required.

Who should I contact if I have problems at home with my treatment?

If your problem relates to the OPAT treatment that you are receiving, or there is a problem with the line, then it is advisable to call one of the numbers at the back of this leaflet for advice. Out of hours or in emergency please contact 111 or your local emergency department.

Caring for your line

- Make sure that your line is covered with a see through dressing and secured in place at all times. The less your line is able to move the less likely it is to become infected
- You should not need to touch your line but, if you do, make sure you have washed your hands first. This applies to anyone touching your line, including doctors and nurses
- Under no circumstances should you insert any substance into your line
- Immediately report any signs of swelling, tenderness, fever, pain or oozing from the exit site to the nursing staff using the contact numbers provided
- Immediately report any bleeding from the exit site. If there is only a small amount of bleeding, apply pressure to the exit site and contact us, using the numbers provided

- **If the bleeding is heavy or does not stop dial 999 for an ambulance to take you to the nearest hospital with an accident and emergency department**
- If the dressing gets wet bacteria may enter the exit site or line and cause an infection, therefore be careful when taking a bath. Do not swim. You may shower, but we advise you to avoid the direct spray and pat dry with a clean towel afterwards. You may wish to purchase a waterproof protector (e.g. LimbO or Seal Tight) from your local Pharmacy to help protect your line while showering
- If your line moves, appears longer, or falls out, please contact us for advice on the telephone numbers provided. We recommend that you do not take part in contact sports

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Preston CIU on Fellview OPAT Clinic:

Monday to Friday (from 8.30am to 4pm) - Telephone: 01772 522960

Saturday and Sunday (from 8.30am to 2.30pm) – Telephone: 01772 522960

Chorley CIU OPAT Clinic:

Monday to Friday (from 8.30am to 4pm) Telephone: 01257 245583

Saturday and Sunday (from 8.30am to 1pm) Telephone: 01257 245583

OPAT Specialist Nurse:

Monday to Friday (8.30am to 4.30pm) Telephone: 01772 522105

Out of hours please dial 111 for advice

Transport

Hospital Transport North West Ambulance (NWAS) Patient Transport Service (PTS)

If you require hospital transport please telephone:

0800 0323240 Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm

Please note that not all patients are eligible to receive hospital transport for appointments; there are specific criteria that must be met. Please consider alternatives such as:

- Own transport
- Public transport
- Family or friends

Some patients may qualify for help with transport costs and enquiries can be made through the General Office. Please ask the OPAT team if you need help with this.

North West ambulance service (NWS) patient transport services have provided a link to a range of alternative transport organisations that can also be approached: www.nwas.nhs.uk/services/patient-transport-service-pts/alternative-transport

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

Department of Health (2015) The Health and Social Care Act (2008) Code of practice for health and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance. London HMSO.

Chapman ALN et al. (2019) Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy: updated recommendations from the UK. *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* 74 (11):3125-3127.

Tice AD et al. (2004) Practice Guidelines for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 38 (12): 1651-1671.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site.

On 31 May 2017 Lancashire Teaching Hospitals became a smoke-free organisation. From that date smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking including Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal. If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણા માં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi."

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਖਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

پوچھئے۔ یہ معلومات دوسری ضرورت ہے تو براے مہربانی سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات بھی دستیاب ہو سکتی ہے زبانوں اور بڑی چھپائی میں

Arabic:

بأحرف مطبوعة المعلومات هذه توفير يمكن. تطلب أن يُرجى المعلومات هذه فهم في مساعدة توريد كنت إذا أخرى وبلغات كبيرة

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