

Outpatient Intravenous (IV) Antimicrobial Therapy: Information for Patients Prior to Enrolment on the Pathway

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (MCHFT) has developed care pathways for patients with infections to receive IV antibiotics on an outpatient basis.

There are two separate care pathways in place:

- 1) Nurse led administration of IV antimicrobials
- 2) Patient led self-administration of IV antimicrobials

We would like to offer you the option of receiving IV antimicrobial therapy as an outpatient rather than coming into hospital for an admission if you feel well enough to do this.

We will provide you with a copy of the care pathway to help you make your decision. When you have read through the documents you feel that outpatient administration of IV antimicrobials is right for you, we will facilitate either;

Option 1: Nurse led administration of IV antimicrobials.

You will attend the Planned Intervention Unit (ground floor MCHFT) on a daily basis for your antimicrobial. Antimicrobials will be administered to you by a nurse.

Option 2: Self-administration of IV antimicrobials

You will attend the Planned Intervention Unit (PIU) for the first dose of your antimicrobial and training on how to give them yourself. Training will continue until you are confident at giving your own antimicrobials. PIU will contact you at home during your antimicrobial treatment to check everything is going well. You will be required to attend PIU half way through treatment for a review and also at the end of treatment to remove your IV access.

If you do not want to receive your antimicrobials on an outpatient basis you can still opt to be admitted to hospital as an inpatient. If at any point during your antimicrobial treatment you no longer want to receive treatment as an outpatient you can change your mind.

You will be provided with the contact details for Pharmacy, PIU and a designated hospital ward so that you always have access to telephone advice if you are having problems at home.

You will be provided with a comprehensive care plan with all of the information about your treatment and IV access. You will be required to bring this with you to the hospital throughout your treatment.

Information Sharing

In order to provide this service we will share your information with:

- Pharmacy, who will provide your antibiotic therapy. An external pharmaceutical company may also be contacted to make your antimicrobial.
- Your GP.
- In some cases we may refer your care to the community Integrated Respiratory team and/or community respiratory physiotherapists who may be needed to support your treatment.

Information shared may include your name. If you are not happy to share this information speak to a member of staff for further information.

Consent for Treatment

If you would like to have your treatment as an outpatient you must consent to:

- Having a midline placed (see 'Understanding your midline' leaflet).
- The sharing of your information as previously outlined.
- Receive treatment as an outpatient.
- Understand that it is your responsibility to call for help if you become more unwell, have problems with the antimicrobial therapy or IV access.

If you are happy to go ahead with outpatient antimicrobial therapy we will ask you to sign a consent form to confirm that you have read all of the information and understand the risks and benefits of receiving your treatment as part of this care pathway. You will also need to consent to information sharing and timely administration of your antimicrobial therapy. You will take responsibility for your midline monitoring and alerting the team to any complications at any time of the day or night.

This information is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please ask a member of staff.

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