

Outpatient Treatment of Cellulitis

You have been diagnosed as having cellulitis. This is an infection of the skin and soft tissue. You require further intravenous antibiotics.

HOW OFTEN DO I REQUIRE THE INJECTIONS?

- Your dose of intravenous antibiotics will be given once a day through a cannula in your arm or hand.
- Your first dose of intravenous antibiotics will be given to you on the Clinical Decision Unit (CDU) at Worcestershire Royal Hospital. After that you will attend the CDU for intravenous antibiotics once a day.

ABOUT YOUR CANNULA

- A cannula will be inserted into your vein in your arm or hand when you are in the Emergency Department or on the CDU. This allows the nurses access to give your treatment intravenously.
- A dressing will be put over the cannula to keep it in place, clean and dry.

Your cannula will have a cap, which opens so that the nurse can give you your intravenous antibiotics. This should be kept closed at all times.

Be careful not to knock or catch the cannula as this may be painful and you may also dislodge the cannula from your vein. If you notice any *redness, swelling or pain* around the cannula site or are worried about it at all contact a member of staff on the CDU.

If you accidentally dislodge the cannula apply pressure over the area it has dislodged from with some gauze (in plastic bag given to you by the hospital) or a clean towel, until any bleeding subsides. Seek advice from the staff on the CDU.

ABOUT YOUR TREATMENT

- You will be allowed home from hospital after your initial two doses of intravenous antibiotics.
- Once you return home it is important to rest your limb that has cellulitis, and keep it elevated for as much time as possible.
- From the 2nd day you will attend the CDU for your antibiotics. On the 3rd day of your treatment your cannula will need to be re-sited by CDU staff.
- You will be assessed daily by a member of nursing staff +/- a doctor. Depending on your progress you will be prescribed oral antibiotics *or* if there is no improvement or any deterioration in your condition referred to the Medical doctors for in-patient treatment.

If you feel at all unwell or are worried about any aspects of your treatment, please contact the staff on CDU.

Clinical Decision Unit 01905 733453 or 39227

Patient Experience

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and unsettling time for you and your loved ones. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with a member of staff on the ward or in the relevant department who will do their best to answer your questions and reassure you.

Feedback

Feedback is really important and useful to us – it can tell us where we are working well and where improvements can be made. There are lots of ways you can share your experience with us including completing our Friends and Family Test – cards are available and can be posted on all wards, departments and clinics at our hospitals. We value your comments and feedback and thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

If you have any concerns or questions about your care, we advise you to talk with the nurse in charge or the department manager in the first instance as they are best placed to answer any questions or resolve concerns quickly. If the relevant member of staff is unable to help resolve your concern, you can contact the PALS Team. We offer informal help, advice or support about any aspect of hospital services & experiences.

Our PALS team will liaise with the various departments in our hospitals on your behalf, if you feel unable to do so, to resolve your problems and where appropriate refer to outside help.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the Complaints Department, who can investigate your concerns. You can make a complaint orally, electronically or in writing and we can advise and guide you through the complaints procedure.

How to contact PALS:

Telephone Patient Services: 0300 123 1732 or via email at: wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Opening times:

The PALS telephone lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.00pm. Please be aware that you may need to leave a voicemail message, but we aim to return your call within one working day. If you are unable to understand this leaflet, please communicate with a member of staff.

For additional medical advice, if your symptoms or condition worsens:

Contact your GP

NHS 111:

Get help with your symptoms, NHS111:
Information to help you manage your health:

Telephone 111

<https://111.nhs.uk/>
www.nhs.uk

In an emergency telephone 999

Emergency Department (A&E)
Alexandra Hospital
Woodrow Drive
Redditch B98 7UB

Tel: 01527 512030

Minor Injury Unit
Kidderminster Hospital
Bewdley Road
Kidderminster DY11 6RJ

Tel: 01562 513039

Emergency Department (A&E)
Worcestershire Royal Hospital
Charles Hastings Way
Worcester WR5 1DD

Tel: 01905 760743