

You will be required to attend AEC on a daily basis for your treatment and investigations until you are discharged or your treatment plan is changed. This will be consistently communicated with you. Once the infection has cleared or improved you may be discharged on oral antibiotics (tablets) or no treatment at all.

We like to advise all patients to see your GP within two weeks of discharge from our service to keep them informed of your recent treatments.

Please note not all treatments will run to time as this is still an Emergency Department. However, we will always endeavour to keep delays to a minimum and communicate with you throughout.

Reference sources

- www.nhs.uk/conditions/Cellulitis/
- <https://cks.nice.org.uk/cellulitis-acute#!scenariorecommendation>
- www.kingstonhospital.nhs.uk/media/92026/Cellulitis-Pathway.pdf
- Royal Surrey County Hospital/N Lewis. (2014). Outpatient & Home Parental Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT/OPHAT) Quick Reference Guide. [Leaflet].

Contact details

If you have any questions, concerns or you begin to feel unwell please do not hesitate to contact us, 7 days a week (between 8am–8pm)

Telephone: 01483 571122 ext 6988 or 2514

Or out of hours please contact or attend the Emergency Department.

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm
Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

Past review date: June 2018
Future review date: June 2021
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PIN180618–1542



Cellulitis

Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit



Patient information leaflet

You have been diagnosed with cellulitis and have been asked to come to the Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit (AEC) every day during your course of treatment for antibiotics.

What is cellulitis?

Cellulitis is an infection of the skin and tissue below the skin's surface. In some cases, it can be treated with oral antibiotics, others require the antibiotics to be delivered directly into the vein via a cannula. This is all dependent on the severity of your infection, individual risk factors and/or if the cellulitis is not improving on oral antibiotics.



Sourced: NHS Choices, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Cellulitis/>
12th May 2018

The infection usually clears up with no further complications however, in some cases, redness to the site may remain.

Self help advice

One way in which you can help yourself is elevating the limb as much as possible. It is advised you spend around 80% of your day with the limb elevated. Using a moisturiser cream and soap substitute can help prevent the skin becoming dry, reduce itching and aid healing.

Treatment

The length of your treatment will be decided by the Doctor in charge of your care, on an individual patient basis, dependent on how you are responding to treatment.

If it is deemed appropriate, you may be discharged home with a cannula in place, which again will be reviewed and assessed on an individual and day to day basis.

By doing this, we hope to reduce the amount of times a cannula needs to be inserted. If you do not wish to go home with a cannula please inform your nursing team.

What is a Cannula?

A cannula is a small tube that sits inside your vein and allows medication to be administered directly into the vein. Once inserted there is no needle left just plastic tubing inside, which will be covered and dressed.

What do I need to do?

You will not have to do anything with your cannula but you will be asked to look out for signs of infection including the site becoming red, sore, painful, swollen or bleeding/leaking.

If you are concerned, please do not hesitate to call the unit (between 8am–8pm on the number at the end of leaflet) or call the main Emergency Department outside these hours.

Caring for your Cannula

You can reduce the risk of infection by keeping your hands clean with regular handwashing and avoiding knocking or pulling the cannula.

You are able to shower with a cannula in place however please try and keep the cannula out of direct water contact, ie. Keep your arm out of the shower or bath. It is advised to keep the dressing clean, dry and intact to protect the cannula.

What to expect while you are being treated

You will initially be assessed by a nurse and a Doctor; you will have investigations carried out including checking your blood pressure, pulse and temperature. You may also be required to have regular blood tests.

Your individual treatment course will be determined and provided by the team looking after you on a day to day basis.