

Contact Numbers

If you are being given IV antibiotics by the Community IV Team you can contact them for further advice on the numbers below:

St Helens or Knowsley IV Team

Office Tel 01744 626702

Warrington, Halton & Runcorn Community IV Team

Single Point of Access, Mon-Fri, 8am-7pm, 01925 454814

Warrington IV Team, Sat-Sun, 9am-5pm, 07776483179

Halton, Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm, 07776 483 179

Liverpool IV Team

Office Tel 0151 285 4696

If you any questions or concerns about your treatment, contact the Acute Medical Unit Same Day Emergency Care Coordinator on 0151 478 7537.

If you consider it an emergency, please dial 999 or attend the Emergency Department

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

St Helens Hospital
Marshall Cross Road,
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA
Telephone: 01744 26633

 /sthknhs  @sthk.nhs
www.sthk.nhs.uk



St Helens and Knowsley
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

Cellulitis Same Day Emergency Care

Patient / Carer Information Leaflet

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.

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Management Plan

This is **your** personal management plan with the aim of helping you to stay better informed through your investigation and treatment.

Name :

Treatment:

Date and time of first dose of antibiotic:

Follow Up :

What is Cellulitis?

Cellulitis is an infection of the deeper layers of the skin and the surrounding tissues. The affected area is hot, painful and red and may cause you to feel generally unwell.

What is the treatment for cellulitis?

Most cases of cellulitis require treatment with antibiotics. In some cases the antibiotics may need to be injected into a vein (intravenous therapy) using a cannula.

What is a cannula?

A cannula is a small plastic tube allowing antibiotics to be given directly into the bloodstream via a vein in your arm or hand. A cannula may be safely left in the vein for the duration of your treatment. The cannula is secured using a dressing to help keep it in place.

Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT)

This allows patients to receive intravenous antibiotic treatments in their own home. Specially trained nurses attend the homes of patients who are requiring intravenous antibiotics to avoid them having to stay in hospital.

What can you do?

- **Rest and elevate** the affected part of the body (you can go for short walks to aid circulation)
- **Take simple painkillers** like paracetamol to ease pain and reduce fever
- Keep your **skin clean**
- **Treat Athlete's Foot or Eczema** if present
- **Drink plenty of fluids** to prevent dehydration

Next Steps

You may have to return to hospital to allow a doctor or nurse to review your progress and to make sure that you are getting better. Once your condition has improved enough, your intravenous antibiotics will be stopped. You may have to complete a course of tablet (oral) antibiotics.

Potential Problems

If for any reason the cannula appears to be coming out, or comes out completely, then apply pressure and elevate the arm to stop the bleeding. **There is no need to panic if this happens.** If your cannula comes out:

- Apply pressure with gauze or a tissue
- Keep applying pressure until the bleeding has stopped
- If the bleeding has stopped, there is no need to call anyone. Your cannula will be replaced before your next dose of antibiotics is due.

If there is any pain, swelling, redness or discharge of blood or pus from the site of the entry of the cannula into the vein, then seek advice using the contact numbers listed overleaf. If you feel like your condition is getting worse or you have any of the following symptoms, contact Whiston Hospital SDEC Unit immediately:

- Worsening skin redness
- Fevers or shivering
- Worsening pain
- Affected skin looking dusky, purple or develops blisters