



Townsville
Hospital
and Health
Service

Community Intravenous (IV) Antibiotic Care

Patient and carer information booklet

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How to contact your nurse

We hope you will make a rapid recovery and not have any problems, however, if you ever have concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your community nurse:

Phone: 0407 574 683

7 days a week from 8.00am to 4.30pm

After hours, or in an emergency, please dial 000

Tell the ambulance and paramedics to come and assess you.



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This patient information brochure supports National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard 2 - Partnering with Consumers

Welcome to the community IV program

You have been diagnosed with an infection which requires you to have intravenous antibiotic therapy.

Your healthcare team feel you are well enough to receive your treatment in the community, supported by nurses.

You will have regular blood tests and your progress will be reviewed by your healthcare team. Please report any side-effects to your nurse and discuss any concerns you may have. Writing them down will help you to remember when you are next in contact with your community nurse.

Your rights and responsibilities

Your rights are:

- The right to privacy and dignity
- The right to be assessed for access to services without discrimination
- The right to choose from alternatives
- The right to be informed
- The right to provide feedback
- The right to an advocate of your choice
- The right to refuse.

Your responsibilities are:

- To be present for decisions regarding your care
- To respect staff and other consumers
- To provide a safe environment for visiting staff
- To be contactable on the phone every day.

Community IV therapy program

This program was developed in response to a growing need to provide an alternative to IV therapy in the Townsville and Mater Hospitals.

It is well evidenced that clients recover faster and experience fewer complications at home.

The Community IV Program co-ordinates this service and will assess your eligibility, provide you with education and start a plan of care after

consultation with the infectious diseases team and yourself. We ask you to be actively involved in planning your care.

What is required on my part?

It is important that you:

- Are independent with activities of daily living or have a carer to assist
- Are reliable and committed to completing your treatment
- Have a safe home environment for visiting staff with access to basic amenities such as running water, electricity, and storage for medication in a clean refrigerator (not in the door)
- Have a friend or family member to support you, if required (i.e. provide transport, meals, shopping, personal care support).

Hints for your first night at home

- Rest and relax. Do not try to do too much too soon, let family and friends help you
- Keep your list of contact numbers somewhere handy in case of emergency such as on the front of the fridge
- Put medications away carefully as per instructions
- If you have any questions, you may like to write them down and ask the nurse when you are seen the next day
- If you are having difficulties at home, let your nurse know, there may be a simple solution.

Infusor/Baxter packs

- Most infusors need changing every 24 hours. It can be done a little earlier or later if the time is not convenient
- The infusor delivers 10mls per hour of antibiotic and fluid over a 24-hour period.
- The infusor balloon might not deflate completely and you may be left with a small amount of fluid. This is quite normal
- Please check the infusor occasionally through the day to check the balloon is deflating.



**If you are not self-caring
please skip to ‘*Looking after
your intravenous antibiotics*’**

How to change your infusor/ Baxter pack

Self-caring on the Community IV Program involves a friend, neighbour or relative attending to the connection of the prefilled bottles and monitoring of the PICC daily.

The Community IV Clinical Nurse will phone daily to check your progress. You or the person assisting to self care can contact the Community IV nurse anytime between 8am to 4.30pm, 7 days per week if required.

A Clinical Nurse will go through the steps with both you and your carer:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water. Dry hands with a clean towel; apply alcohol rub vigorously for 15 seconds
- Prepare a work area by opening the blue liner, chlorhexidine swabs x2 and the infusion bottle, ensuring to check name and expiry date on the bottle
- Visually inspect the PICC insertion site and biopatch (small blue disc), ensure dressing is clean, dry, intact, not wet or blood filled. Also ensure there are no kinks in the PICC line
- Check your temperature daily with a thermometer at time of connection and discuss with your nurse, any concerns
- Apply clean gloves and remove white top dressing. Disconnect the infusion bottle at the PICC lumen, blue or white, by twisting in an anti-clockwise direction. **Please ensure you do not disconnect the blue lumen from PICC. Should this happen, reconnect and call your nurse**

- Wipe the PICC lumen well with chlorhexidine soaked gauze or swabs as provided by your nurse for 15 seconds, allowing drying time of 30 seconds
- Disconnect the blue cap from the infusion bottle, ensuring a small bubble of fluid begins to flow
- Connect the prefilled bottle to the PICC lumen by pushing and twisting in a clockwise direction. **Be sure not to touch the ends of the infusion bottle connector or the PICC lumen**
- Cover the connected area with a clean dressing provided
- Wash hands.

Looking after your intravenous antibiotics

Antibiotics are medications used to treat bacterial infections. They will be specifically prescribed by the infectious diseases team.

Antibiotics occasionally have side-effects. If you are changing to a different antibiotic prior to discharge, you will be requested to have the first dose at the hospital.

It is important to store your Baxter infusers in the fridge, not in the door, and between 2 degrees Celsius and 8 degrees Celsius.

Possible complications or concerns

Below are some possible complications or concerns that you should report to your nurse:

- In the event of chest pain, hives, shortness of breath, lip, tongue or throat swelling, this is a medical emergency, call 000 immediately and disconnect the infusion
- You have pain, swelling heat and redness at the site of your PICC line
- There is redness on your arm, neck or shoulder
- There is a change in the length of the PICC line going into your arm

- If your temperature is 38 degrees Celsius or above and you're unwell, PICC arm has swelling, pain or any other concerns with PICC, contact community nurse (CN). If out of hours, please present to the Townsville University Hospital (TUH) emergency department
- In the event of accidentally disconnecting the lumen from the PICC, clamp off the PICC, reconnect immediately if not contaminated and contact CN
- If PICC accidentally gets pulled out, apply pressure to insertion site and contact CN during business hours or present to TUH emergency department if out of hours
- Bottle has large volume remaining: this is not an emergency situation. Please check for kinks in line and phone CN during business hours or leave a message out of hours and CN will contact you the next morning.

Your venous access device site

Avoid catching the Baxter or line on doors, clothing etc. Many clients feed the line up the inside of their clothing to help prevent accidents.

When showering, keep the area dry by covering it with glad wrap or a plastic bag taped in position. A morning shower is advisable during your treatment. If the dressing gets wet, your nurse can change it for you. After hours, you will have to attend the emergency department and this may mean a lengthy wait. Please try not to stand with the shower running over your PICC dressing for long periods.

Watch for signs of infection (fever, chills, unexplained tiredness, redness, pus or tenderness) or a change in the position of your line. If you experience any of these, please contact your nurse/doctor. After hours, attend the emergency department or house call doctor.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your nurse.

What can I do to help me feel better?

- Get plenty of rest
- Eat a well-balanced diet
- Drink 2 litres of water per day unless restricted by a condition
- Do not lift anything above 3kg with the arm which has the PICC line
- Do not work out or do any strenuous exercise.

Follow-up during the community IV program

- Please keep all appointments even if you feel unwell
- If you are unable to attend, please tell the nurse so other arrangements can be made
- You will have review appointment at TUH by the ID Team (Infectious Disease) during the course of your care
- Complete the full course of antibiotics even if you feel well
- If you feel unwell, please contact your nurse, doctor or attend emergency department.

We aim to offer excellent patient care. We trust you find this booklet helpful and we wish you well in your recovery.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

