

Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy- OPAT

The outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) team brings together the expertise of hospital and community teams to manage the delivery of intravenous antibiotics to patients who are medically stable, within their own homes.

The OPAT team consist of a Medical consultant, Microbiologist, Antimicrobial Pharmacist and a Nurse Coordinator. Community IV administration continues to be undertaken by the nurses from the admission prevention service who have provided community IV therapy in East Suffolk for many years. Referrals for all intravenous antibiotics in the community should seek the approval of the OPAT team before administration is organised.

OPAT Telephone Referrals are via the CCC on 03001232425

08:00-16:00 Monday-Friday

Outside of these hours and at Weekends, calls will go through to the admission prevention service on **03001232425** with the case being handed over to OPAT for review on the next working day.

The OPAT team want to ensure Infections are treated with the most appropriate antibiotics available with guidance from microbiology.

Please ensure the below is completed before referral for step up to Intravenous antibiotics

- Patients are fully assessed and diagnosed by the GP.
- All oral antibiotic options have been trialled before referral.
- Appropriate cultures have been sent.
- Baseline bloods have been taken, FBC, LFT's U+E's CRP.

Receiving appropriate IV antibiotics at home, rather than as an inpatient, improves quality of life for patients and reduces the risk of hospital-acquired infection. Feedback from OPAT patients is overwhelmingly positive, citing the benefits of receiving treatment at home, the ability to return to work, and the care, support and expertise of the team. This reduces the need to admit patients whose only reason to stay in hospital is to receive IV antibiotic therapy. All OPAT patients continue to have their medical condition and treatment closely supervised by the multidisciplinary team who meet weekly. We have a proven record that this approach contributes to avoiding admissions, reducing a patient's length of stay in hospital by promoting early discharges and improves patient experiences.