



## ***PATIENT INFORMATION***

### **Adult Outpatient and Home Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy Policy**

#### **General Care and Emergencies**

**For all enquiries (9am to 5pm, 7 days a week) contact the  
Medical Admissions Avoidance Team (MAAT) on  
01803 655776 or via the MAAT bleep through switchboard 01803 614567**

**For all enquiries (after 5pm and before 9am) contact  
Accident & Emergency via switchboard 01803 614567.  
You can also use this route if unable to contact the MAAT during working hours**

#### **Information about intravenous medicines**

- The medicines your doctor prescribes are for your use only, so never give them to someone else as it may harm them.
- Store all medicines out of reach and sight of children.
- Unless told otherwise, store all medicines at room temperature so avoid leaving them near a radiator or in the bathroom.
- If your doctor decides to stop any medicines, return any unused medicines to the MAAT.
- If you would like any more advice or information about your medicines you can contact either: MAAT on 01803 655776 or Pharmacy on 01803 655304.

#### **Information about your peripheral cannula (also called a 'venflon' or intravenous line)**

- Generally the peripheral cannula and dressing should be kept dry. The cannula will be changed every 3 days by the MAAT. Do not attempt to change the dressing yourself.
- If bathing, wrap cling film around the dressing and do not immerse your arm in water.
- Problems that can relate to a peripheral cannula are outlined in points 1 to 4 in the table below. But if the cannula comes out and the bleeding stops there is no need to attend A&E.

### Information about your PICC line/ Midline (also called an intravenous line or IV line)

- Generally the PICC line/ Midline dressings should stay dry at all times. The dressing will be changed weekly by the MAAT. Do not attempt to change the dressing yourself.
- Do **not** use over-the-counter dressings such as tubi-grip.
- If taking a shower wrap cling film around the arm to prevent splashes of water wetting the dressings. If taking a bath do the same but keep the arm over the side of the bath.

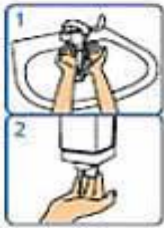
Below are list of possible problems and what to do:-

Problem	What to do
1. Skin at line site looks wet or blood-stained.	Contact MAAT
2. Accidental line removal.	Apply pressure dressing at the insertion site for at least 5 minutes, elevate limb and contact MAAT - if out of hours attend A&E (keep the line).
3. Pain, redness of insertion site or arm, drainage at insertion site.	Contact MAAT - if out of hours attend A&E.
4. Elevated temperature, pain, tenderness or chills.	Contact MAAT - if out of hours attend A&E.
5. Pain in arm, ear or shoulder.	Contact MAAT - if out of hours attend A&E.
6. Numbness, tingling or weakness in area of insertion site.	Contact MAAT - if out of hours attend A&E.
7. Chest pain, breathlessness, racing heartbeat, confusion and restlessness.	Place patient on left side and raise legs and hips on cushions. <b>Call Emergency Services on 999.</b>

## How to wash your hands

You should spend between 20 and 30 seconds washing your hands with soap and clear running water.

Wash hands thoroughly taking care to include palms, thumbs and fingers, including tips, and backs of hands.



Wet hands with water



Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces



Rub hands palm to palm



Rub back of each hand with palm of other hand with fingers interlaced



Rub palm to palm with fingers interlaced



Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hand using a rotational movement



Rub tips of fingers in opposite palm in circular motion



Rub each wrist with opposite hand



Rinse hands with water



Dry thoroughly

### When using alcohol handrub:

- Squeeze down plunger once and collect alcohol handrub in the palm of the hand.
- Then follow steps 3 to 8 as above.
- Allow the handrub to dry.
- The whole process should take about 30 seconds.