

Paediatric ambulatory clinic

Information for children, families and carers

This factsheet contains information about the paediatric ambulatory clinic. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the ward caring for your child or the paediatric outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (pOPAT) team.

What is the paediatric ambulatory clinic?

Our pOPAT team hold a daily ambulatory clinic for children who are receiving intravenous (IV) antibiotics (antibiotics that are given directly into a vein) but are well enough to go home in between doses.

Who can attend this clinic?

This clinic is for children who are clinically well but need to continue on IV antibiotics for a short period. This clinic is not suitable for all children receiving IV antibiotics. We will discuss whether this clinic is the right option for your child with you.

Where does the clinic take place?

The paediatric ambulatory clinic takes place on G2 ward between 9.30am and 12.30pm. We will give you a specific time slot to come to the clinic (this will be either 9.30am, 10.15am, 11am or 11.45am). Please report to G2 ward when you arrive at the hospital.

What to expect

When you arrive at the ward, a pOPAT nurse will come and meet you and take you to the treatment room.

During the appointment, we will:

- assess your child and take their temperature and heart rate
- ask about your child's progress
- share any outstanding results with you (if available)
- give your child their antibiotics (this may be by cannula (a small, flexible plastic tube inserted into a vein in their hand or arm) or by mouth) or stop their antibiotics if no longer needed

If your child needs further blood tests or another cannula inserted, we will arrange for them to have this done during their clinic appointment.

If we feel that your child needs a medical review following our assessment, we will also arrange for them to have this during their clinic appointment. However, please note that there may be a delay depending on the availability of the reviewing team. We will keep you up to date at all times.

What if I have any concerns?

You can discuss any concerns you may have during your child's clinic appointment. Alternatively, if you have any **non-urgent** queries, you can call the pOPAT team on **07776 497313** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm and weekends, 9am to 1pm).

If you have any **urgent** concerns while your child is receiving treatment, or if it is outside the hours above, take your child to your nearest emergency department or call **999**.

When will my child be discharged?

Once your child has completed their course of IV antibiotics and/or results from tests taken show that their IV antibiotics can be stopped, we will remove your child's cannula and discharge them from our care.

If your child needs to continue having oral antibiotics (suspension or tablets taken by mouth), we will give you any necessary medication before you leave hospital, along with instructions on how and when to take it.

If your child becomes unwell after they have been discharged from our ambulatory clinic, please seek medical advice from your child's general practitioner (GP) or NHS **111**.

In an emergency, go to your nearest emergency department or call **999** for an ambulance.

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport

