

Paediatric outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (pOPAT)

Treatment at home contract

Information for children, families and carers

Paediatric outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (pOPAT) is an effective treatment option for an infection that allows your child to receive intravenous (IV) antibiotics (antibiotics given directly into a vein) in the comfort of their own home rather than in hospital. However, in order for your child to have this treatment safely at home, a number of terms and conditions must be adhered to by both you and your child's healthcare teams (pOPAT team and community nurse team). This is to ensure that your child receives the same quality of care at home as they would in hospital.

Before your child leaves hospital, the pOPAT team will provide you with:

- any necessary training and equipment
- a discharge summary (this contains information about your child's treatment plan and any follow-up pOPAT appointments they have booked)

Please read the terms and conditions below carefully. If there is anything you are unsure about, please ask a member of your child's pOPAT team.

Terms and conditions of pOPAT

Community nurse visits

Your child must have a fixed address where the community nurses can visit each day to give your child their antibiotics and review their condition. The community nurses will arrange a convenient time with you to visit each day. It is important that you are at home at the agreed time of each visit, otherwise your child may miss their dose of antibiotics. If this happens, the community nurse will inform your child's pOPAT team. A decision will then be made by the pOPAT team as to whether your child needs to receive the rest of their treatment in hospital. The pOPAT team will discuss this with you, if applicable.

If at any stage the community nurse feels that it is inappropriate or unsafe for your child to receive their treatment at home, they will inform your child's pOPAT team, who will then make a decision as to whether your child should have the rest of their treatment in hospital. The pOPAT team will discuss this with you, if applicable.

Medication and waste

When your child is ready to leave hospital, the pOPAT team will give you preprepared intravenous antibiotics to take home with you. You must keep this medication refrigerated unless the pOPAT team have advised you otherwise.

You must place all medication waste into a clinical waste bag (the pOPAT team will provide you with this). This bag will then be discarded by the community nurses when they visit your child at home.

Paediatric ambulatory clinic

In addition to your child's daily community nurse visits, they will also need to attend an appointment in the paediatric ambulatory clinic at Southampton Children's Hospital once a week.

During this appointment, the pOPAT team will:

- review your child
- supply you with additional medication (if needed)

Please note that this appointment may be by telephone if the pOPAT team feel that a face-to-face clinical review is not necessary or if you do not live local to Southampton. Please see your child's discharge summary for more details.

Reporting any concerns

It is important that you report any concerns you have about your child's intravenous line (peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), central venous catheter (CVC), midline or cannula) to your child's community nurse or pOPAT team.

Contact your child's pOPAT team or the on-call medical registrar immediately, using the contact details we have given you, if you have any concerns that your child's clinical condition is deteriorating (getting worse).

Declaration

I consent for my child to receive intravenous (IV) antibiotic treatment at home and agree to comply with the terms and conditions above.

Patient name	
Hospital number	
Date of birth	

Parent or guardian name	
Signature	
Date	

pOPAT nurse name	
Signature	
Date	

If you are a patient at one of our hospitals and need this document translated, or in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone 0800 484 0135 or email PFSH@uhs.nhs.uk

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

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