

Cellulitis ambulatory care

REFERRAL PROFORMA



The following patients require surgical or orthopaedic review before consideration for OPAT

- Surgical wound involvement
- Possible joint involvement
- Bursitis or underlying abscess
- Foreign body

Name
DoB
CHI
Address

The following patients should be discussed with the OPAT consultant / on-call ID registrar:

- those with an associated diabetic ulcer
- those with a history of recent hospital admission, documented MRSA infection or CDI
- those with bacteraemia

Criteria for Ambulatory Care – Out-patient Antibiotic Therapy(OPAT)	Please tick
No social or other medical reasons for admission	
No active addiction issues which may result in non-attendance at OPAT and patient has reliable contact details	
Patient able to mobilise safely	
Failure of a trial of oral antibiotics and elevation or cellulitis severe enough to warrant intravenous therapy	
No red-flag signs of cellulitis requiring urgent treatment, admission and specialist referral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systolic BP < 100 mmHg • 2 or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temp < 36 or > 38°C - HR > 90 bpm - Resp rate > 20 • Periorbital or midface cellulitis at risk of intracranial spread • Cellulitis of the neck or floor of mouth suggestive of Ludwig's angina • Cellulitis of the perineum or groin area suggestive of Fournier's gangrene • Pain out of proportion to skin changes or blistering, rapidly evolving cellulitis suggestive of necrotising fasciitis or gas gangrene <p style="text-align: center;">If uncertain please discuss with a senior doctor</p>	
Check BM and bloods including blood cultures.	
Administer 1g of IV ceftriaxone (if no contra-indications) over 30 minutes for uncomplicated cases. Give 2g for complicated infections (eg bursitis, extensive cellulitis).	
Give patient analgesia if required, advise patient on elevation of affected limb and supply with a sling if appropriate.	
Document if patient has had a doppler ultrasound to look for DVT and the result in the patients EPR.	
Contact OPAT nurse specialist ext 32844 and they will give you a time for patient to attend. If after 6pm scan and email the referral and EPR as below, leave a message on ext 32844 answer phone and tell patient they will be contacted by OPAT the next day with an appointment time. Please write patient's phone number in the EPR.	
Scan and email this completed referral with a copy of the EPR to WGH.OPAT@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk – ED or PAA reception can do this for you.	
Give patient information leaflet and directions on next page.	

NHS Lothian

NEW ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH

Ambulatory Care Patient Information

Instructions for patients with cellulitis being treated as an outpatient

You are being treated for cellulitis, an infection of the soft tissues.

The medical team looking after you have decided that you are well enough to go home.

You have been referred to the Out-patient Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) service at the Western General Hospital.

We would like you to go there on / / at am for review and antibiotics. If we have been unable to contact the OPAT team because it is late in the evening or night-time we will have left a message with them and they will contact you by phone tomorrow with an appointment time.

Please go to the OPAT centre, Ward 42/43 Regional Infectious Disease Unit (RIDU) at the Western General Hospital. Enter the hospital by the Telford Road entrance and park free of charge in car park 9 (directly outside RIDU). If the car park barrier is down please press the buzzer and say you are attending for Out-patient Antibiotic Therapy(OPAT).

You will attend there on a daily basis for intravenous antibiotics until the infection begins to clear.

Please continue to take any other medications prescribed for you in the meantime and keep the affected limb elevated as much as possible to help decrease the swelling.

Please bring an overnight bag in case you need hospital admission due to any deterioration in your condition.

**You can telephone for advice if you are unsure:
Emergency Department - 0131- 2421300
Primary Assessment Area - 0131- 2421424**

or

**OPAT
Regional Infectious Diseases Unit
Western General Hospital
Phone 0131 537 2844**

