

Patient Information

Infusion of antibiotics given by Elastomeric pump

Elastomeric pumps are non-electronic, disposable, and portable devices designed to provide antibiotic infusions in your home.

Why you've been prescribed antibiotics by pump

Intravenous (IV) antibiotics are used to treat many types of bacterial infections. In some conditions, IV antibiotics are more effective than oral antibiotics at reducing infection.

In some cases, you may have a prolonged stay in hospital to receive IV antibiotics. If you are stable and well enough to go home, the clinical team responsible will contact the COPAT team and ask them to see you. The COPAT team decides if you're suitable to be given the antibiotics at home.

Administration of the antibiotics at home is done via the Elastomeric pump.

How it Works

The pumps are pre-filled with antibiotics and stored safely in a refrigerator before administration. The antibiotics are delivered via a plastic line in your arm inserted prior to commencement. IV treatment via the pump can be delivered in several ways:

- Nurse administration – The antibiotic will be given to you by a nurse who will visit you at home daily. You'll need to be present in your home at a pre-arranged time.
- Daily visits to hospital – this can be an option for those with a medium course of IV antibiotics who do not want to self-administer and can come to clinic daily.

Dose

The antibiotic dose will be tailored for you and monitored closely by the COPAT team.

The pumps are available for 2 types of antibiotics – Flucloxacillin and Piperacillin/tazobactam. The antibiotic you receive will depend on your infection and the type of bacteria isolated. The pump will be connected once a day and run for 24 hours.

Side Effects

All medicines can have side effects. For possible side effects relating to treatment, please refer to the patient information booklet. If you experience any symptoms, speak to a member of the COPAT team as soon as possible.

In very rare cases, some people may have an extreme allergic reaction to their medicine called anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis symptoms include:

- Flushing of the skin
- Nettle rash (hives) anywhere on the skin
- Swelling of the throat and mouth
- Difficulty in swallowing or speaking
- Alterations to heart rate, palpitations
- Sudden dizziness and light headaches
- Abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting
- Sudden feeling of weakness

Disconnect your antibiotics and call 999 if you experience any of the above symptoms during or after your treatment. Explain to the call handler that you are receiving IV antibiotics and think you are having an allergic reaction.

If there is a problem with the pump

We believe that treatment can be just as good and safe at home as it can be in hospital, provided monitoring instructions are followed. If you believe there is a problem with the pump, please follow the following guidance:

If the balloon is still full when the medicine is supposed to be going through, check the following:

Access line

- Check the device is connected directly to the midline or access line.

Clamps

- Check that any clamps are open and have not been closed by accident – release the clamp, and the medicine should begin to flow.

Flow rate regulator and filter

- Ideally, the flow rate regulator and filter have not been exposed to any water whilst showering or bathing. You'll be supplied with a shower sleeve to reduce this risk.
- Confirm the flow rate regulator is in contact with your skin for the duration of the infusion of the device.

Your temperature

- Check your temperature is normal. The device can flow slightly faster if you have a high temperature or slightly slower if you have a low temperature.
- During the colder months, if you've been out in the cold without wrapping up this could affect the flow.
- Using hot water bottles or electric blankets will increase your body temperature. This could increase the flow rate.

Driving

There are occasions where your health condition or the treatment you're receiving can affect your ability to drive safely. Discuss this with the COPAT team.

Avoid alcohol

Avoid alcohol. Alcohol may reduce the effectiveness of the treatment and cause severe interactions with the drugs you receive. Discuss this in more detail with the COPAT team.