

## Questions or Concerns?

Listed below are some reasons to call the Infectious Diseases clinic:

1. Frequent, watery diarrhea (more than 3 times in a 24 hour period). We may need to test your stool for a bacterial infection.
2. Nausea, vomiting, and/or abdominal pain.
3. Rash and/or itching.
4. Chills and/or drenching night sweats (soaking your pajamas or sheets).
5. Increased redness and/or drainage from your infection site.
6. Redness, pain, and/or drainage from your IV site.
7. Fever (greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit).

Based on your symptoms, we may be able to assist you over the phone or arrange for your visiting nurses to help you. In some cases, we may instruct you to go to the Emergency Room.

**See reverse for clinic contact information**

## Contact

**Infectious Diseases Clinic:**

Phone: **314-362-9098**

Toll-free: **800-858-3541**

Hospital ID Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_



**★ Taylor Avenue Building Extension**  
620 South Taylor Ave, Suite 100  
St. Louis, MO 63110

Patient parking available north of building

# Leaving the Hospital on IV Antibiotics



## Information for Patients and Families

Infectious Diseases  
Bone and Joint Consult Service

# Antibiotics

Because your infection may involve a bone or joint, it is important to receive a longer period of antibiotic therapy by vein (IV).

It is recommended that you receive the following IV antibiotic(s) for at least \_\_\_\_ weeks:

- Vancomycin (Vancocin)
- Ceftriaxone (Rocephin)
- Daptomycin (Cubicin)
- Ertapenem (Invanz)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

It is also recommended that you receive the following oral (pill form) antibiotic(s) for at least \_\_\_\_ weeks:

- Ciprofloxacin (Cipro)
- Rifampin (Rifadin)
- Metronidazole (Flagyl)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Side effects you may experience:** Nausea, vomiting, loose stools, abdominal discomfort, rash.

**Timing is important:** It is important that you receive your antibiotics on a regular schedule and not skip doses. This will make sure that there is enough antibiotic in your body throughout the day to help fight your infection.

**Finishing is important:** You must finish all of the antibiotics prescribed for you unless instructed by your doctor to stop. Taking all of your antibiotics helps get rid of your infection. It also helps prevent resistance to antibiotics in the future.

**Labs:** Your visiting nurses will need to draw your blood 1 to 2 times per week. This will help us monitor your infection and look for side effects of your antibiotics. Some antibiotics like Vancomycin must be at certain levels and may require more frequent checks.

## Preventing the Spread of Infection



Make sure to wash your hands with antibacterial soap and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before touching your IV catheter or changing surgical dressings.



When drying hands, use a clean paper towel. Reusable towels can have bacteria.



Before putting anything into your IV catheter, remember to scrub the “hub” (tip of your IV catheter) with an alcohol wipe. You should scrub for 30 seconds and allow to dry.



Refer to your home care service’s instructions for taking care of your IV line and setting up your antibiotics.

# Follow-up Appointment

Within a week of leaving the hospital, the clinic will contact you to arrange a follow-up appointment. If you do not receive a call, please contact the clinic to make an appointment (see reverse for clinic contact information).

**Keeping your follow-up appointment is very important.** Below are some of the things that may happen or be decided at your appointment:

1. We will examine the site of your infection and IV area to look for any problems.
2. We may decide that you need to continue your antibiotics for a longer time in order to treat your infection.
3. We will arrange for your IV line to be removed when the antibiotics are completed.
4. We may recommend that you take oral antibiotics after finishing your IV antibiotics. This will depend on your diagnosis.