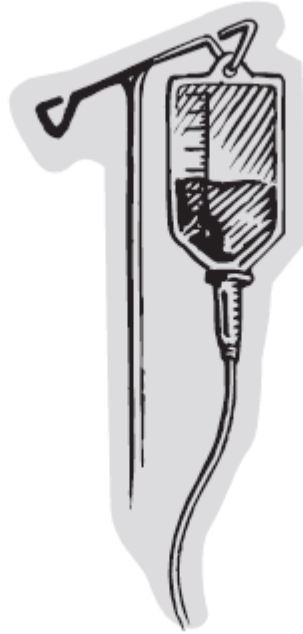


Leaving the Hospital on IV Antibiotics

Information for Patients and Families
Infectious Diseases



Antibiotics

Because of your infection, you must be treated with antibiotics by vein (IV).

Timing is important!

You should receive antibiotics on a regular schedule and *not* skip doses. This will give your body enough antibiotic to fight your infection.

Finishing is important!

You must finish *all* antibiotics unless told otherwise by your doctor. Taking all of your antibiotics will help get rid of your infection and prevent resistance to antibiotics.

What to expect

Labs:

A nurse will draw your blood about 1-2 times each week. Labs help us monitor your infection and watch out for antibiotic side effects.

Telephone calls:

You will be receiving lots of phone calls! People who will need to contact you include the infectious disease clinic, home health nurses, home infusion team (antibiotic providers), pharmacists, and doctors.

- Please make sure we have a working phone number for you so you can receive these calls that are important for your health
- Please make sure your voicemail is set up AND has space for us to leave a message (just in case we miss you!)

Catheter and Wound care

- Always wash hands with antibacterial soap and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before touching your catheter or changing wound dressings.
- When drying hands, only use a clean paper towel.
- Don't forget to scrub the "hub" (tip of your catheter)! Do this with an alcohol wipe before each use. Scrub for 30 seconds (minimum) and allow to dry without blowing on it or waving your hand across it.
- Refer to your home care service's instructions for taking care of your IV line and hooking up your antibiotics.

Follow-up Appointment

Keeping your follow-up appointment is very important! Below are things that may happen or be decided at your infectious diseases clinic appointment.

- Look at the infection site and IV to look for problems
- Determine how long you need to be on IV antibiotics
- Prescribe oral (pill) antibiotics after finishing IV antibiotics if needed
- Depending on how you are doing, we may order additional blood work or imaging tests to evaluate your infection
- Arrange for your IV line to be removed when the IV antibiotics are completed

Questions or Concerns??

Below are reasons to call the Infectious Diseases Clinic **RIGHT AWAY!**

1. Watery diarrhea more than 3 times in 24 hours.
2. Nausea, vomiting, and/or belly pain
3. Rash and/or itching
4. Chills
5. Drenching night sweats
6. Fever >100.3
7. Increasing redness and/or drainage from a wound
8. Confusion or personality changes
9. Antibiotic catheter problems. Based on your symptoms, we may be able to help you over the phone or have your home health nurse help you. In some cases, you may need to go to the Emergency Room.

Contact

Infectious Diseases Clinic:

Phone: **314-362-9098**

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



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Patient parking available north of building