INFORMATION FORM FOR PATIENTS WITH OPAT (OUTPATIENT PARENTERAL ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY)

Home treatment with intravenous antibiotic therapy

Dear Sir,
Dear Madam,

If you are undergoing long-term treatment with intravenous antibiotics ('via the vein'), UZ Leuven offers you the option of continuing this therapy at home. This means that a home nurse will administer your antibiotic treatment at your home for several days via an intravenous catheter. The care is coordinated and supervised by the OPAT care team at UZ Leuven, together with your home nurse and, if necessary, your general practitioner.

This form is intended to provide you with more information about the general course of home treatment with intravenous antibiotic therapy. We also try to answer a number of frequently asked questions (e.g. the cost of this treatment and the provision of equipment for home treatment).

1. What is the objective?

Offering this home treatment has the advantage that you can continue to be treated in your own home environment and social context (professional activity, family situation). In this way, we strive to offer you a better quality of care.

2. Who is eligible for home treatment?

Your treating physician and the hospital's OPAT care team will decide whether you are eligible for treatment with intravenous antibiotic therapy at home. This decision is made based on the infection (and its progression) and on physical, cognitive and social factors.

The final decision to be treated at home rather than in hospital is yours as the patient. If you agree to home treatment with intravenous antibiotic therapy, the hospital's OPAT team will start the discharge process.

3. How much will this home treatment with intravenous antibiotics cost me?

As a patient, the antibiotics and materials required for your home treatment with antibiotic therapy will be fully reimbursed by your insurance company or health insurance fund (if they meet the reimbursement criteria for home hospitalisation). For other medicines (infusions) and elastomer pumps (if applicable), you will pay a personal contribution (the co-payment). If the reimbursement criteria for home hospitalisation are not met, you will also pay a personal contribution for the antibiotic and the equipment.

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The OPAT care team will inform you in advance of the amount of this personal contribution. By agreeing to home treatment with intravenous antibiotics, you also indicate that you have been sufficiently informed about these costs.

You can try to claim the costs you incur from your hospitalisation insurance (if applicable). We recommend that you contact your insurance company for this. Your hospitalisation insurance may cover (part of) the costs. If you wish, the social work department at UZ Leuven can assist you with further advice.

4. What needs to be done before you can go home?

- A suitable intravenous catheter will be inserted in the hospital to serve as an access route for the administration of the antibiotic. You may already have a port catheter or a tunnelled venous catheter that can be used for treatment with intravenous antibiotics.
- At least the first two doses of the antibiotic therapy will be administered in the hospital.
- You (and your family, if applicable) will receive verbal and written information from the OPAT care team about the antibiotic therapy, the intravenous catheter, possible problems you may encounter when you are at home and what to do in that case. You will also receive the contact details of the hospital's OPAT care team.
- The OPAT care team will contact an experienced home nurse in your area and organise the start of home care. In consultation with you and the home nurse, the OPAT care team and your treating physician will then determine when you can be discharged from hospital.
- All antibiotics and materials are provided by the hospital pharmacy at UZ Leuven. Upon your discharge, you will receive these materials from the nursing unit where you are admitted.
  Note: in the case of long-term home treatment with antibiotic therapy, it may not be possible to provide all the materials for the entire duration of the treatment in one go. Therefore, it is possible that during the course of the home treatment, you will need to collect one or more additional packages of materials from the hospital pharmacy's service point (West Entrance, Gate 1, Level 2; above the West car park, under the yellow canopy). This will be clearly communicated to you by the OPAT care team.

5. What happens to your care once you are at home?

- Depending on the time of your discharge and the antibiotic you are being treated with, the first home visit by the home nurse will take place on the day of your discharge from hospital or the day after your discharge. The home nurse will then visit you at home once or several times a day for the remainder of the antibiotic therapy to administer the antibiotic, care for the intravenous catheter and monitor the infection.
- Throughout your treatment, the OPAT care team at UZ Leuven and your home nurse will communicate regularly about your treatment by telephone, email and via the electronic patient record. The home nurse will send a weekly report on your treatment to the hospital.

- Your treating physician at the hospital will remain responsible for your treatment, even during home treatment. Your general practitioner will be informed via the discharge letter from the hospital.
- Follow-up during and/or at the end of your treatment will be scheduled at UZ Leuven.
- If any problems arise while you are at home, you can always contact your home nurse, GP or OPAT care team at the hospital. The information brochures contain more information about which care provider you should contact for which problem.

6. What do we expect from you?

As a patient, you also have an active role to play during home treatment.

- The medicines and equipment supplied must be stored in a dry place at room temperature below 25°C, in a safe place and out of the reach of children. Only certain antibiotics need to be stored in the refrigerator (2-8°C) and, if this applies, this will be explained verbally in the hospital and stated in the separate information leaflet for the antibiotic in question.
- You must follow the planned care and antibiotic treatment (time of care and administration).
- If you experience side effects or other problems (see information leaflets; e.g. temperature rise > 38°C, complaints at the level of the catheter), contact the home nurse, GP or OPAT care team at the hospital immediately.
- If you are unable to receive your treatment at the scheduled time, please contact your home nurse so that they can take appropriate action if necessary.
- Please arrive on time for scheduled examinations and consultations. If you are unable to attend these appointments, please notify the relevant department at the hospital.

7. What happens at the end of the therapy?

At the end of the therapy, you will have a follow-up consultation with your treating physician at the hospital.

Empty glass antibiotic vials are recyclable and may be disposed of with the selective glass collection. Injection needles are collected and processed in a needle container which is disposed of as small hazardous waste (usually by the home nurse). If the needle can be separated from the syringe, you may dispose of the empty syringe with your normal household waste, together with the filter, empty infusions and infusion tubes. Empty elastomer pumps may also be disposed of with the residual waste.

If, at the end of the therapy, you still have half-full or full vials and/or half-full or full elastomer pumps containing antibiotics at home, you must return these to the hospital pharmacy's service point *(West Entrance, Gate 1, Level 2; above the West car park, under the yellow canopy)*. These must not be disposed of with household waste.

Any remaining, unused material can also be returned to the hospital pharmacy's service point. Depending on how it has been stored at home and the condition of the material, we will consider whether the costs relating to the material can be recalculated for you and your invoice adjusted.

If there is no further need for an intravenous catheter, it will be removed. Depending on the type of catheter and the choice of your treating healthcare providers, this can be done either in the hospital or at your home by the home nurse.

8. What if you wish to end the therapy at home?

As a patient, you are always free to decide to return to the hospital, regardless of your reasons. If the quality of care at home is compromised for any reason, treatment can be resumed at the hospital. This decision will be made in consultation with you, your treating physician and the OPAT care team at UZ Leuven.

9. What happens to your data?

During your treatment, certain data about you will be collected in the electronic patient record.

As part of quality monitoring and with a view to implementing future improvements to this project, your medical data may be reused for research purposes. All persons who access your data for research purposes are bound by professional secrecy or confidentiality obligations. Your direct identification details, such as your name and date of birth, will not be disclosed. Your identity will also remain confidential in the event that certain results are published. If your medical data has been reused for research purposes, you will find this under 'Projects' in your mynexuzhealth account. You can find more information about this on our website: https://www.uzleuven.be/nl/privacy-en-uw-dossier/het-belang-van-gegevensdeling.

As part of your therapy follow-up, your healthcare providers at UZ Leuven and your home nurse will also communicate regularly about your therapy at home. Certain medical data about you will be shared between them.

I, ……

Declare that I have been thoroughly informed and agree to

☐ **the continuation of intravenous antibiotic therapy at my home**

Signature:

Date:

If you have any further questions regarding home therapy, please do not hesitate to contact the OPAT care team.

Thank you for your cooperation.
The OPAT team

Contact details for the hospital's OPAT care team

- By telephone: 016 34 32 74 (available on weekdays (except public holidays), between 8.30 a.m. and 5 p.m., no service between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.)
  - ⇨ If you have any problems outside office hours, please contact the nursing unit from which you were discharged or the emergency department by telephone.
- By email:opat@uzleuven.be . Your question will be answered as soon as possible, but this may take up to 48 hours. This mailbox is not checked during the weekend.

Overview of the course of home treatment with intravenous antibiotic therapy

Decision to home treatment with intravenous antibiotic therapy

Preparation for discharge (by OPAT care team):

- ✓ Places of suitable catheter
- ✓ Informing the patient verbally and in writing
- ✓ Preparing the necessary antibiotics and materials for home
- ✓ Contacting the home nurse and organising home care

Discharge from hospital

Home treatment by home nurse:

- ✓ Administering antibiotics, follow-up catheter care and infection monitoring
- ✓ Regular contact between home nurse and OPAT care team at UZ Leuven

If applicable:

- ✓ Interim follow-up consultations at the hospital
- ✓ Pick up an extra pack of antibiotics and supplies from the hospital pharmacy's service point

End of treatment:

- ✓ Final follow-up consultation at the hospital
- ✓ If applicable: removal of catheter

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