Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) Self-administration of Ertapenem IV infusion

This leaflet is designed to support patients, and nursing staff who are teaching patients to self-administer Ertapenem, with the assistance of the OPAT team. Please use this information in conjunction with the 'Patient Self-Administration IV Therapy Competency Tool'.

Through comprehensive individual demonstration and training assessment, you will be able to:

- Minimise the risk of introducing infection into a vein by keeping everything very clean.

- Avoid touching the key parts of syringes, needles and extension sets.

- Prevent injecting air into a vein by learning to prime syringes and extension sets carefully.

What is Ertapenem?

Ertapenem is an antibiotic; it is part of the antibiotic group carbapenem. Ertapenem is given as an intravenous infusion once daily, the infusion runs over 30 minutes. Ertapenem is only available as an injection. Please read the patient information leaflet inside medication box for further information about your medication.

What you will need

The ward nursing team and the OPAT nurses will ensure that you are happy and safe to administer Ertapenem following the procedure below.

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Putting you first

Equipment **per dose**:	**1** tray and sani-cloth detergent wipes **2** pair sterile gloves & non-sterile gloves **3** 10ml syringes **3** red needles **3** clinell wipes 2% **2** red bungs **1** giving set and sharps bin
Patient dose:	• 10ml ampoules 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline) **x2** • Ertapenem vial, 10ml water for injection & 50ml bag of sodium chloride.

What to do

REMEMBER to check the dose and the expiry date of the drug, diluent and normal saline.

1 Wash your hands and clean the tray with detergent wipes; assemble equipment. Use non-sterile gloves to prepare medication; protect key parts by using a non-touch technique throughout the procedure.

2 Prepare medication

- Clean the stopper of the Ertapenem vial with a clinell wipe 2%, allow 30 seconds to dry.

- Draw up the water for injection into a 10 ml syringe using a red needle and inject into the vial of Ertapenem, swirl until the medication is fully dissolved.

- Check the bag of normal saline is in date, intact and the solution is clear with no particles or discolouration.

- Clean the injection port with a clinell wipe 2%, allow 30 seconds to dry.

- Withdraw the prepared solution from the vial. Lay the bag flat and inject the prepared dose of Ertapenem directly through the centre of the port. Withdraw needles and syringes, discard in sharps bin.

- Invert the bag several times to ensure thorough mixing of the solution.

- Remove giving set from packaging and close the roller clamp. Insert the IV giving set and prime the line until there is no air in the line. Hang the bag on a hook.

3   Prepare saline flushes

- Draw up saline into a 10ml syringe using a red needle. Remove the needle from the syringe and dispose of it directly into the sharps bin.

- Tap the syringe to remove any air bubbles to the top and expel. Place a red sterile cap on the syringe. Repeat for the second flush.

4   Administering medication

- Wash hands and put on sterile gloves.

- Clean the connector on your PICC line thoroughly with a clinell wipe 2% and allow 30 seconds to dry.

- Flush the PICC line with the 10mls of normal saline using the 'push-pause' pulse technique.

- Connect the IV tubing set securely to your extension set and administer over 30 minutes. When finished, disconnect the line.

- Put on the second pair of sterile gloves. Flush the line again with 10mls of normal saline using the pulse technique.

- Safely dispose of equipment. Needles and glass vials must be discarded in the sharps bin provided.

5   Any difficulties?

Please contact the OPAT team should any problems occur, all relevant phone numbers are listed in your care plan.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo) https://www.accessable.co.uk