

## Patient information

# Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) Self-administration of Benzylpenicillin 1.2g IV bolus

This leaflet is designed to support patients, and nursing staff who are teaching patients to self-administer Benzylpenicillin, 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, training and 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 Benzylpenicillin?

Benzylpenicillin is an antibiotic; it is a narrow-spectrum penicillin antibiotic. Benzylpenicillin is given intravenously, by multiple doses throughout the day. 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 Benzylpenicillin following the procedure below:

Equipment <b>per dose:</b>	<b>1</b> tray & sani-cloth detergent wipes <b>1</b> pair sterile gloves & non-sterile gloves <b>2</b> 10ml syringes <b>1</b> 20ml syringe <b>3</b> red needles <b>2</b> clinell wipes 2% <b>3</b> red bungs & sharps bin
Patient dose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10ml ampoules 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline) <b>x2</b></li> <li>• Benzylpenicillin 1.2g vial and an ampoule of 20 mls water for injection</li> </ul>

## 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 Benzylpenicillin vial with a clinell wipe 2%, allow 30 seconds to dry.
- Draw up **10mls** of the water for injection into a 20 ml syringe using a red needle and slowly inject into the vial of Benzylpenicillin, shake until clear and the medication is fully dissolved.
- Withdraw the prepared solution and further dilute to a final volume of 20mls of water. Remove the needle from the syringe and dispose of it directly into the sharps bin. **Do not touch the top of the syringe.** Tap the syringe to move air bubbles to the top and expel.
- Place a red sterile cap on the syringe before placing in the tray.

### 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.
- Remove any air from the syringe as before and 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.
- Administer the Benzylpenicillin slowly via the syringe over a period of 5 minutes.
- 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>

