

Cellulitis Management:

STANDARD: Elevate the affected limb of patients admitted with cellulitis so that it rests at a level above the heart.

EXCEPTION: patient with known peripheral vascular disease – Seek advice from senior doctor prior to elevation

If limb is properly elevated you can:

1. Minimise duration of IV antibiotic use
2. Reduce length of stay
3. Have a happier patient and consultant 😊

Example:

Affected Leg



Elevate the foot of the bed (tilt the bed so leg is elevated)

Affected arm

Elevate using a pillowcase and drip pole hanging device



Place one corner of the pillow case inside the other corner to create a pouch. Using a bandage tie the open end together and then tie to the top of an IV drip pole.

The patient can then place their arm into the pouch. A safety pin can be placed half way up the opening once the arm is insitu to prevent the arm from falling out.

