

CELLULITIS TREATMENT UNDER ACUTE DEMAND

Patient Information/Advice

You have been diagnosed with an infection of the skin called **cellulitis**.

Your doctor has put you on to **antibiotics** to help fight the infection.

It is very important that you **take all your antibiotics** to ensure that the infection improves. Please complete the course of antibiotics even if you are feeling better before the end of the course.

You should also follow the instructions to **elevate** the affected arm or leg above the height of the heart..

Your doctor will want to see you again/sooner if:

- You have symptoms of an **allergic reaction**. If you experience severe symptoms such as swelling around the mouth, difficulty breathing, or you collapse – please call an ambulance. For milder symptoms such as a rash or diarrhoea – please see your doctor before taking further antibiotics.
- You start to feel **more unwell** and ‘flu-like’ with a worsening fever, uncontrollable shakes, light-headedness or dizziness. Drinking water/fluids and taking paracetamol may help with these symptoms. Seek medical advice if you do not improve.
- You think the **pain and swelling** in your arm / leg is **getting worse**. Your healthcare provider may draw a line around the redness. It is not unusual for the redness to spread and get a little worse before it gets better, but if increasing redness is associated with pain and swelling, please seek further advice.
- Your skin starts to weep and **open up like a wound**.

If you were started on intravenous (IV) antibiotics, you may be expected to return to the GP to complete the course of IV treatments and then follow this with a course of antibiotics taken by mouth.

→ If your **IV cannula falls out**, simply **apply gentle pressure** to the site for one to two minutes until it stops bleeding, and apply a plaster. The cannula can go in the bin as it contains no needle. Advise you doctor at your next follow-up.

Follow-up appointments during this episode of care are **free of charge**. If you think you need to be reviewed *sooner* than your booked appointment you can attend an **afterhours GP** at no cost (ensure you show them the **referral form** you were given).

For **FREE HEALTH ADVICE** please call the phone number of your medical centre – day or night. Calls are diverted to a triage nurse after 6pm.