

**Paediatric Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (p-OPAT) service  
- advice for the on-call medical team**

The parents of children being managed at home under the p-OPAT team have been asked to contact the p-OPAT team or community nurses during working hours and the **on-call Paediatric Registrar out of hours** if they have any concerns about their child. Please note:

- All documentation for patients under the p-OPAT team can be found under their hospital number on e-docs.
- In case of an emergency, the on-call infectious diseases Consultant can be contacted on for advice.
- If you are contacted out of hours regarding a child under the p-OPAT team, please can a message be left on the p-OPAT phone, so that we are aware that the family/community nurses have been in contact.
- Any queries/concerns please do not hesitate to contact us:

**p-OPAT Phone (Monday to Friday 08.00 – 17.00): \*\*\*\*\***

**ID Consultant on call: \*\*\*\*\***

The following table provides a quick reference guide to the problems that may arise with a p-OPAT patient. This includes what the family are instructed to if a problem arises and the action required by the on-call medical team if they do call out of hours.

If the CVC or PICC line comes out, it will not need replacing immediately. However IV access may be required before the next dose of antibiotics is due. If this happens out of hours, the on call registrar will need to organise the placement of a cannula until the p-OPAT team are next available to review the child and organise another central line if necessary. The p-OPAT team will coordinate this at the next possible opportunity.

## Possible problems that they may have:-

Problem	Possible Cause	What to do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temperature/Chills</li> <li>• Tenderness/Redness/Puss at line site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgent medical review is required at UHS by the on call Registrar.</li> <li>• Inform or leave a message for the p-OPAT team.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swelling around line site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line displacement</li> <li>• Infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical review is required at UHS by the on call Registrar if urgent or by the p-OPAT team the next day.</li> <li>• Advise parents or community nurses not to use the line.</li> <li>• Inform or leave a message for the p-OPAT team.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluid leaking from line or line site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line breakage</li> <li>• Line displacement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical review is required at UHS by the on call Registrar if urgent or by the p-OPAT team the next day.</li> <li>• Advise parents or community nurses not to use the line.</li> <li>• Inform or leave a message for the p-OPAT team.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bleeding from line site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line displacement</li> <li>• Trauma/injury</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: a small amount of bleeding from the line site is normal in the first 24 hours post insertion, as long as the dressing remains in tact and secure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical review is required at UHS by the on call Registrar if urgent or by the p-OPAT team the next day.</li> <li>• Advise parents or community nurses not to use the line.</li> <li>• Inform or leave a message for the p-OPAT team.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dressing becomes loose / falls off / wet / dirty</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent to place a sterile gauze pad over the line and tape.</li> <li>• Contact the community nurses.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CVC line comes out</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent to place a sterile gauze pad over line site and firmly press.</li> <li>• Seek medical assistance <b>IMMEDIATELY</b> and then contact p-OPAT team or out of hours Registrar</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PICC line comes out</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place a sterile gauze pad over line site and press firmly until bleeding stops.</li> <li>• Securely tape a piece of gauze over the old line site.</li> <li>• Inform p-OPAT team or out of hours Registrar.</li> </ul>

