

## Caring for your saline lock at home

- Keep the saline lock clean and dry.
- Cover your hand or arm with plastic wrap when showering.
- Protect the site and saline lock from being caught in clothing or accidentally hit.
- Do not remove the clear bandage or any of the tape. This could pull the catheter out of place.
- If you have pain at the site or the saline lock is falling out, here is how to remove it safely:
  1. Get clean gauze or Kleenex and an adhesive bandage.
  2. Take off the clear bandage.
  3. Gently pull the catheter straight back and out of the vein.
  4. Place the clean gauze over the site and press firmly.
  5. Raise your arm and continue to press until the bleeding stops (about 2 to 5 minutes).
  6. If it is still bleeding after 5 minutes, press firmly for another 5 minutes.
  7. Once the bleeding stops, place the adhesive bandage over the site. If it does not stop bleeding, reinforce the gauze, continue to press firmly, and return to Emergency.

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For any questions or concerns about your therapy, call us:

Outpatient Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Clinic  
7 days a week 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
**604-520-4853**

After hours, call 8-1-1 and ask to speak to a registered nurse.

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[www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca)

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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# Outpatient Clinic Intravenous Antibiotic Therapy

Royal Columbian Hospital

Outpatient Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Clinic  
330 East Columbia Street  
New Westminster, BC  
**604-520-4853**

Your appointment date and time is:

## Getting here

**Driving:** Parking is limited. There is parking outside Emergency, outside the Main Entrance near Sherbrooke Street, and in the underground parkade off Keary Street.

**Transit:** There is a bus stop directly in front of the hospital on East Columbia Street.  
Sapperton Station is ½ block down Keary Street.

Call 604-953-3333 or go to [www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca) for bus and SkyTrain routes.

Enter through the Emergency Entrance off East Columbia Street. Check in with the greeters. They will direct you to Emergency Registration 'Booth A'.

The Registration clerk gives you a hospital armband.

**Please keep the armband on until your last antibiotic treatment.**



You have an infection that is best treated with antibiotics given through an intravenous. We will let you know how often you need to come in for antibiotic therapy.

### About your medications

Please bring a list of all the medicines you are currently taking so that we can review your medicines with you on your first visit.

### About your appointments

Please arrive for your appointments at the scheduled time. For the antibiotic to have the best effect, it must be given at the time we have made for you each day of your treatment.

**Note** Any missed treatments or changes in the treatment times will slow down your recovery. If you are going to be late or miss an appointment, call to let us know as soon as possible.

If you do not speak or understand English well enough to talk about your health, we can book a professional medical interpreter to help us communicate. You do not pay for this.

### About antibiotic therapy

Your doctor might give you a prescription for antibiotic pills to take while on intravenous antibiotic therapy. Fill this prescription at your pharmacy as soon as possible and take them as directed.

## Let us know if you have any allergies

It is possible you could react to or be allergic to the antibiotic.

### Signs of allergic reaction

Mild or moderate allergic reaction:

- rash
- chills and fever over 38.5°C (101.3°F)
- feeling sick to your stomach (nausea)
- throwing up (vomiting)
- belly (abdominal) cramps or pain
- loose or watery bowel movements (diarrhea)

Severe allergic reaction:

- increasing trouble breathing, including swelling and tightening of the neck and throat
- a rapid heartbeat
- suddenly feeling lightheaded or faint
- a sudden intense feeling of uneasiness and fear

### What to do

During treatment...  
Let us know

After leaving...  
Tell us at your next visit

During treatment...  
Tell us **right away**

After leaving...  
**Call 9-1-1**

### About your intravenous

You have a 'saline lock'. This includes a small, hollow, plastic tube called an intravenous catheter and a cap or lock. The intravenous catheter goes through your skin into a vein in your hand or arm. We cover the site with a clear bandage to protect it.

We check to make sure your saline lock is working before we start the antibiotic therapy. To do this, we 'flush' the lock with saline (sterile mild salt water). We also flush the saline lock after your antibiotic therapy. We might need to put in a new intravenous catheter if the current one stops working.