

## 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 go to the nearest Emergency.

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

8:00AM to 2:30PM

604-814-5176

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

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

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

Catalogue #266035 (December 2018)

To order: <https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca>

# Outpatient Clinic Intravenous Antibiotic Therapy

Mission Memorial Hospital

Outpatient Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Clinic  
7324 Hurd Street  
Mission, BC

**Your next appointment**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Getting here

Our Clinic is located in the Ambulatory Daycare on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the hospital.

- If you enter, from the south side of the hospital, you are on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Take the elevator to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- If you enter through the main entrance, you are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- Follow the signs to the Ambulatory Daycare (beside the Laboratory).



You have an infection that is best treated with antibiotics given through an intravenous.

### How to register

You need to **register each time you come in.**

**During regular hours, Monday to Friday,** register at the Ambulatory Daycare.

**Weekends and Statutory Holidays,** report to the Emergency Department registration desk. Tell them you are here for intravenous antibiotics. After you check in, proceed to the Ambulatory Daycare.

### About your appointments

**604-814-5176**

For the antibiotic to have the best effect, it must be given at the time we have made for you. So it is very important that you attend every one of your appointments at the time specified.

**Note** Any missed treatments will slow down your recovery. We might have to restart your treatment. If you cannot attend, call the number above as soon as possible.

**Medicines:** Bring a list of all the medicines you take to your first appointment. We need this because some medicines change how antibiotics work.

**Infection / Wound care:** We encourage you to take a picture of your infected area / wound using your own electronic device. This helps to compare day to day your progress. If you need bandage changes, this will be arranged with our Wound Clinic across from the hospital.

**Pain:** Some infections cause pain. See your doctor for this. We do not give or prescribe any opioid (narcotic) medications from this Clinic.

### About antibiotic therapy

#### 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 (101.3f)
- 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 your nurse know

After leaving, call the Clinic and let us know

During treatment, tell your nurse 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.