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.

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

Outpatient Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Clinic
Monday to Sunday 7:00AM to 11:00PM
604-520-4853

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

Write your appointment time here:

**About your appointments**
Please arrive for your appointments as scheduled. 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.

Each visit, go directly to the OPAT Clinic.

**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 call, we might ask you to return to the Emergency Department to have your infection checked and the treatment restarted.

**About antibiotic therapy**
While getting antibiotics by intravenous, we might give you some medicine to take at home. This medicine helps the antibiotic work. We give you enough for a 24 hour period at each visit, if needed, along with instructions on how to take this medicine.

Also 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.

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**Let us know if you have any allergies**
It is possible you could react to or be allergic to the antibiotic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs of allergic reaction</th>
<th>What to do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mild or moderate allergic reaction:</strong></td>
<td><strong>During treatment...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- rash</td>
<td>Let us know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- chills and fever over 38.5°C (101.3°F)</td>
<td><strong>After leaving...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- feeling sick to your stomach (nausea)</td>
<td>Tell us at your next visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- throwing up (vomiting)</td>
<td><strong>During treatment...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- belly (abdominal) cramps or pain</td>
<td><strong>Tell us right away</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- loose or watery bowel movements (diarrhea)</td>
<td><strong>After leaving...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Severe allergic reaction:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call 9-1-1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- increasing trouble breathing, including swelling and tightening of the neck and throat</td>
<td><strong>During treatment...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- a rapid heartbeat</td>
<td><strong>Tell us right away</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- suddenly feeling lightheaded or faint</td>
<td><strong>After leaving...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- a sudden intense feeling of uneasiness and fear</td>
<td><strong>Call 9-1-1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.