

GP referral Pathway

Management of Adults (≥18 yrs) Skin and Soft Tissue Infection via QEUH Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Service

Skin or soft tissue infection affecting upper/lower limb or face (erysipelas)

GP to Review and assess severity

ORAL ANTIBIOTICS

- No signs of systemic toxicity
- No uncontrolled co-morbidities
- Not yet tried oral antibiotics
- Flucloxacillin 500mg QDS *or*
- Doxycycline 100mg BD*
- Duration 5 days (continue for further 5 days if slow response)

*Interactions: Ca, Fe, Mg, Cations

POSSIBLE OPAT

- Systemically ill or well but with co-morbidity such as peripheral vascular disease, chronic venous insufficiency or morbid obesity which may complicate or delay resolution of their infection.
- Well but cellulitis worsening despite appropriate oral antibiotics

ADMISSION

- Significant systemic upset such as acute confusion, tachycardia, tachypnoea, hypotension
- Unstable co-morbidities (e.g. AKI, cardiac decompensation or uncontrolled blood sugar)

EMERGENCY

- Septic shock
- Severe life / limb threatening infection such as necrotising fasciitis

Consider OPAT exclusion/inclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Must be able as a minimum be able to attend AND return home from first OPAT review visit
- Self-caring (or have carer to look after them)
- Willing to attend for OP IV treatment

OPAT Exclusion Criteria

- Other acute medical problems requiring inpatient management
- Alcohol dependency or current IV drug/substance use
- Significant mental health morbidity/ deliberate self harm
- Patient unwilling to attend for OP IV treatment

- Refer to OPAT (08:00 -13:00 Monday- Friday): Tel: (0141) 452 3107
- Email patient medical/ full drug /allergy history to: opat@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
- OPAT is based in the Medical Day Unit, 1st Floor, QEUEH