

## **COpAT**

# **Self-administration of intravenous (IV) medicines**

Intravenous (IV) medicines are given through an IV access device into a vein. The type of medicine and how long you'll be taking it for will determine the type of device you have.

## **Self-administration**

Self-administration of medicine is an option given to patients. It's designed to empower and encourage you to administer your own medicine whilst at home with the support and guidance from your COpAT team. Self-administration allows patients to have their IV treatment safely and effectively without attending the hospital on a daily basis or staying in hospital.

## **Who can self-administer IV medicines**

The COpAT team will assess the appropriateness of a patient to self-administer their IV medicine.

If you decide to go ahead with this option, the COpAT team will deliver a comprehensive training package and competency assessment. If you are unable to self-administer, there are also options for a carer or relative to be trained and signed off to administer the medicines at home.



## Patient Information

### **Benefits of self-administration**

You will be at home in a comfortable, familiar environment where you can continue your normal activities/lifestyle, including working if you are fit enough. You will be under the supervision of the COpAT team who will monitor your progress through weekly blood results and reviews either in a clinic setting or within your own home. There is a reduced risk of hospital acquired infections.

This service also supports the hospital in reducing the number of patients in hospital.

### **Alternatives**

If it's not possible for you, a relative or a carer to self-administer your IV medicines, there may be the option for you to attend the hospital on a daily basis to receive the treatment from a healthcare professional. There may also be an option for a nurse to administer in your own home.

### **Treatment**

How often you administer your medicine is decided on an individual basis and depends on your diagnosis and the medicine being administered. Your healthcare professional will discuss this with you at your initial assessment.

The length of your treatment depends on your diagnosis. It can be days, weeks, or months. Your healthcare professional will explain how long you will need the medicine for before you start your COpAT treatment. Be aware that this may change depending on your response to treatment.

### **Review**

You will need to check your vital signs every day with the COpAT team ringing you daily Monday -Friday to discuss these results and monitor any concerns you may have.

You will be reviewed face to face at least once a week by a healthcare professional. This may be in a clinic or home setting. At this review, your IV device will be reviewed, bloods taken if needed and your dressing will be changed.

## Patient Information

We'll discuss your care at our team meeting weekly. Here your treatment, blood results and progress will be monitored.

### Risks

Some patients are allergic to some medicines. Usually, they only have mild symptoms, such as a minor rash, or itchy skin. Unfortunately, others can have more severe reactions that need immediate medical treatment. One dose of your medicine will be given to you in hospital to ensure you do not have an initial severe reaction.

The COpAT team will provide you with contact numbers to call if you feel unwell, or have concerns related to the medicine you are taking, or the IV device used to administer it.

### If you have a problem at home

The COpAT team are available Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm on 024 7696 4125.

**For any concerns out of hours, contact 111. In case of emergency, call 999. Inform them that you are under the care of the COpAT team.**

### Allergic reactions

In very rare cases, some people have an extreme allergic reaction to their medicine. This is called anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis symptoms include:

- Flushing of the skin
- Nettle rash (hives) anywhere on the skin
- Swelling of the throat and mouth
- Difficulty in swallowing or speaking
- Alterations to hearty rate, palpitations
- Sudden dizziness and light headaches
- Abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting
- Sudden feeling of weakness

## Patient Information

**If you experience any of the above symptoms either during or after your treatment, dial 999.** Explain to the call handler that you are receiving IV medicines, and you think you are having an allergic reaction.

### **COpAT team**

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm

024 7696 4125

**For any concerns out of hours, contact 111. In case of emergency, call 999. Inform them that you are under the care of the COpAT team.**

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 4125 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smokefree policy.

### **Did we get it right?**

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



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