

Title	Homecare: MDT Home Visits and Home IVs Support
Version	1.0

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1. MDT Home Visits

Home visits can be beneficial to both patients and all team members. Members of the MDT may visit patients at home for a variety of reasons, including:

- Practical procedures e.g. Portacath access and administration of medication
- Supporting patients and families
- Education and Training
- Benefits review and application support
- Clinically review
- Annual Review preparation
- Home IV antibiotic support

Note: Home visits made by a single MDT Team member should comply with their Trust's sole/lone worker policy

2. Home IVs Support

2.1. Introduction

Many adult and paediatric patients choose to administer Intravenous antibiotic courses at home. This service helps to minimise disruption for the patient and families, and allow continued attendance at work, college and school.

However, home IV's are not appropriate for everyone and a number of factors need to be considered before offering this service. Patients may be too sick to do treatment at home or their social circumstances may mean that it would be unsafe to do so.

Home IV antibiotic courses:

- Are usually planned in advance
- Will be co-ordinated by the CF Nurse & Medical Team regarding the date/time, the prescription, consumables and training

2.2. Starting an IV Course

- IV courses commence in hospital – a minimum of the first dose is given in hospital
- Patients will be assessed including:
 - Clinical review
 - Oxygen saturations
 - Weight
 - Height

- Spirometry (if able)
- Sputum sample/cough swab/cough plate
- Blood tests as clinically indicated e.g. annual blood tests
- Venous access
 - Mid-line insertion, cannula or Portacath access
 - Portacaths must only be accessed and midlines inserted by nursing and medical staff that have had the relevant training and signed off as competent. Arrangements will be made by the CF nurse regarding who is available to complete these tasks.
- Patients should stay in hospital for a minimum of 1 hour after receiving the antibiotic in case of any adverse reactions.

2.3. Antibiotic Prescription

- Antibiotics, diluents and flushes must be included on the home IV prescription in advance.
- The prescription should be sent to the relevant pharmacy department.
 - UHNM currently have an in-house manufacturing service and therefore those that attend here can have their antibiotics pre-mixed. If manufacturing do not have capacity or the antibiotic of choice cannot be pre-mixed patients may need to mix their own antibiotics at home.
 - Shropshire uses an out of hospital pharmacy manufacturing company, so that these patients can receive pre-mixed antibiotics.
 - Some Shropshire families re-constitute antibiotics after collection from the SaTH Pharmacy

2.4. Consumables

The amount of consumables required will depend on the antibiotic regime, if it is a manufactured or dispensary prescription, the type of IV access and the duration of the course. All consumables are provided to the patient at the start of the IV course from the hospital supply. The following consumables may be needed:

- Syringes
- Needles
- Dressings
- Giving sets
- Infusion pump
- Sani-cloth wipes
- Bionnectors
- Bandages

2.5. Teaching and Competencies

Patients and families will receive practical training to administer IV's at home. This is usually done in hospital.

- The amount of training required will depend upon both the ability and the confidence of the patient/family.
- The patient will be given a competency pack at the start of their first IV course, this pack contains important information such as; contact numbers, troubleshooting advice and reactions. There is also a section for the discharging nurse to complete regarding the antibiotic regime and mixing instructions if required. The final page is a competency checklist to be completed by nursing staff when they are confident that patient/families can safely administer IV antibiotics.
- A new competency checklist, antibiotic regime and mixing instructions should be given and reviewed at each IV course.

2.6 Support and End of IV Review

It is important that patients and carers feel supported during a home IV course. They should be made aware of who to contact if any problems occur. This would usually be the CF Nurse if within office hours or if out of office hours the designated CF ward.

- Patients should ideally be reviewed at the end of IV course by a nurse or Doctor from the CF team. Line/ needle will be removed.
- Closed sharps bins can be returned at this visit, other waste can be disposed of at home.
- Patients will require spirometry, weight and cough swab/sputum sample for MC&S.