

Patient information

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) Self-administration of Meropenem 500mg IV bolus

This leaflet is designed to support patients, and nursing staff who are teaching patients to self-administer Meropenem, with the assistance of the OPAT team. Please use this information in conjunction with the '*Patient Self-Administration IV Therapy Competency Tool*'.

Through comprehensive individual demonstration, training and assessment, you will be able to:

- Minimise the risk of introducing infection into a vein by keeping everything very clean.
- Avoid touching the key parts of syringes, needles and extension sets.
- Prevent injecting air into a vein by learning to prime syringes and extension sets carefully.

What is Meropenem?

Meropenem is an antibiotic; it is part of the antibiotic group carbapenem. Meropenem is given intravenously, by multiple doses throughout the day. Meropenem is only available as an injection. Please read the patient information leaflet inside medication box for further information about your medication.

What you will need

The ward nursing team and the OPAT nurses will ensure that you are happy and safe to administer Meropenem following the procedure below:

3 Prepare saline flushes

- Draw up saline into a 10ml syringe using a red needle. Remove the needle from the syringe and dispose of it directly into the sharps bin.
- Remove any air from the syringe as before and place a red sterile cap on the syringe. Repeat for the second flush.

4 Administering medication

- Wash hands and put on sterile gloves.
- Clean the connector on your PICC line thoroughly with a clinell wipe 2% and allow 30 seconds to dry.
- Flush the PICC line with the 10mls of normal saline using the 'push-pause' pulse technique.
- Administer the Meropenem slowly via the syringe over a period of 5 minutes.
- Flush the line again with 10mls of normal saline using the pulse technique.
- Safely dispose of equipment. Needles and glass vials must be discarded in the sharps bin provided.

5 Any difficulties?

Please contact the OPAT team should any problems occur, all relevant phone numbers are listed in your care plan.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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