

Patient information

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) Self-administration of Meropenem 2g IV infusion

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 enabled 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 as follows:

Equipment per 2g dose - infusion:	1 tray and sani-cloth detergent wipes 2 pair sterile gloves and non-sterile gloves 2 10ml syringes 2 20ml syringe 4 red needles 3 clinell wipes 2% 2 red bungs 1 giving set sharps bin
Patient dose: 2g	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10ml ampoules 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline) x2 • Meropenem 1g vial x2 and x2 ampoules of 20mls water for injection • 100ml bag normal saline

What to do

Remember to check the dose and the expiry date of the drug, diluent and normal saline.

1 Wash your hands and clean the tray with detergent wipes; assemble equipment. Use non-sterile gloves to prepare medication; protect key parts by using a non-touch technique throughout the procedure.

2 Prepare medication

- Clean the stopper of the meropenem vial with a clinell wipe 2%, allow 30 seconds to dry.
- Draw up the water for injection into a 20ml syringe using a red needle and slowly inject into the vial of meropenem, shake until clear and the medication is fully dissolved. Repeat for second vial.
- Check the bag of normal saline is in date, intact and the solution is clear with no particles or discolouration.
- Clean the injection port with a clinell wipe 2%, allow 30 seconds to dry.
- Withdraw prepared solution from the vial. Lay the bag flat and inject the prepared dose of meropenem directly through the centre of the port. Withdraw

needles and syringes, discard in sharps bin. Invert the bag several times to ensure thorough mixing of the solution.

- Remove giving set from packaging and close the roller clamp. Insert the IV giving set and prime the line until there is no air in the line. Hang the bag on a hook.

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.
- Tap the syringe to move air bubbles to the top and expel; 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.
- Connect the IV tubing set securely to your extension set and administer over 30 minutes. When finished, disconnect the line.
- Put on the second pair of sterile gloves. 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 (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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