

Information for families and carers

# Home Intravenous (IV) therapy for your child





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*This leaflet is a general guide to Home Intravenous (IV) therapy for your child. It does not replace the need for personal advice from a qualified healthcare professional. Please ask us if you have any questions.*

## The Home Intravenous (IV) therapy service

Welcome to the Home Intravenous (IV) therapy service. Home IV therapy allows patients to have treatment in their own home. Having Home IV therapy means they can maintain their independence and continue with school or study.

This leaflet provides parents and carers with information about how to safely give IV therapy at home. The booklet complements face-to-face training the paediatric hospital nursing team provides.

You can find more information, including videos about home IV therapy on our website (see *More information* on page 13).





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## What is IV therapy?

IV therapy is medication given intravenously (through the veins) straight into the bloodstream.

There are different types of IV lines that are used for IV therapy. The IV line chosen for treatment depends on a child's veins and how long the medication is needed. Your child may already have a device under the skin such as a portacath that we will use for IV therapy.

The IV line is inserted into a vein and held in place by a dressing. The IV line can stay in place during the course of a child's treatment.

If your child has home IV therapy, you will still need to come to the hospital so your child can have at least the first dose of IV medication that has been prescribed.

During your visit to the hospital, a nurse will teach you how to give the IV medication.

You will be asked to wait for at least an hour in hospital after your child is given the first dose to check the medication does not give your child any side effects (also called adverse reactions). You will then be advised about when to leave the hospital so that your child can have the rest of the treatment at home.

## What happens when my child goes home?

A member of your hospital team will explain what will happen when your child goes home. You will be invited to an end of treatment appointment which will take place in person, by phone or video call.

You will also be able to contact members of your child's hospital team if you have a concern at any stage of the treatment. See contact details on page 12.

Please note: You will be advised if any of your child's usual medications will change during the course of the treatment.

## Will my child need to have blood tests?

Blood tests are only needed for certain IV medications. If blood tests are needed for your child's IV medication, we will discuss them with you.

If your child needs blood tests, it is very important that your child has them at the right times. IV medication blood tests are usually carried out to ensure that a medication dose is within the correct therapeutic (treatment) range.

If the medication level is above this range, it could lead to kidney damage or hearing loss. If the medication is below this range, the medication will not be working as it should be.

## What if my child feels unwell while having Home IV?

If your child feels unwell while having Home IV treatment or develops new symptoms check the table below and overleaf:

### Moderate

#### Look for these symptoms

- Headache
- Temperature
- Flushing
- Nausea
- Shivering
- Mild wheezing
- Chest pain
- Raised itchy rash
- Pins and needles and tingling of lips

#### Action

**STOP** giving the medication immediately and contact your hospital team. See contact details on page 12.



## Severe

### Look for these symptoms

- Lip/tongue swelling
- Bluish discoloration of lips, fingers or toes
- Wheezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty in swallowing
- Collapse

### Action

**STOP** giving the medication immediately.

**Call 999 for an ambulance stating the emergency is "anaphylaxis".**

Remember: Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals do not have accident and emergency (A&E) departments.

## What if I have other concerns?

Speak to a member of your hospital team if you have any concerns. If at any time, you do not want to continue with your child's home IV therapy or feel unable to cope with the treatment, please tell us. We can discuss the different treatments available. See contact details on page 12.

## How to deliver medication through an IV line

When you visit the hospital, your nurse will teach you how to deliver medication through an IV line.

You will be given plenty of time to ask questions and practice giving the medication.

It is very important that you know how to deliver medication through an IV line. This is to prevent any problems with the line so it can stay in place and continue to work properly for the whole time your child needs it.

Here is some general guidance about giving medication and details of your child's dosage. You will be given detailed step-by-step instructions on a separate information sheet. You can also watch videos on the Home IV section of our website (see *More information* on page 13).

## Step one: hygiene

Each time you give IV medication you need to reduce the chance of infections getting into the bloodstream. To help reduce the chances of that happening, you will be taught the Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT) that nurses use.

ANTT is used to ensure that a person giving medication does not touch certain key parts of the equipment and medication, such as the top of a syringe, needle or containers.

You need to follow these guidelines when giving medication:

- **Before you start giving the medication:** wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. You need to wash your palms, the back of both hands, fingers, thumbs and wrists carefully. Dry your hands with a paper or clean towel.
- **In between the different stages of preparing and giving the medication:** use alcohol gel to clean your hands. The nurse will show you how to do this during your training.
- Clean the surface of the table or tray you are using to prepare the medication with antibacterial surface cleaner, disinfectant wipes or warm soapy water. Allow the surface to dry.
- Use this surface to prepare your IV medication.

- Use the yellow sharps bin to dispose of any sharps (anything medical that has sharp edges, needles, for example).
- When you have finished giving the medication, clean the surface of the table or tray, and wash your hands again for at least 20 seconds.



## Step two: preparing medication

**Always** follow these instructions below when storing and managing medication:

- Store medication and equipment as advised – see the labels or information that comes with them.
- Keep glass vials and ampoules until you have finished giving medication – in case your child has any side effects and we need to find out more about what happened. Then put them into the yellow sharps bin provided.
- Ensure all medication and equipment is kept out of reach and sight of children.
- Your child's medication must be given as prescribed. Having too much or too little can be harmful and make your child very ill.
- If you forget to give a dose of medication, do not give it at a later time. Instead, contact your hospital team and give your child the next dose at the usual time.

**Check your medication is correct before giving IV medication. Do this by looking at the label/s on the medication and details on your prescription. Check:**

- Is my/my child's name on the medication?
- Is this the correct medication?
- Is this the correct dose of medication?
- The expiry date – do not use the medication if it is past the expiry date
- Prepare all the equipment you need (e.g. needles and diluents)
- Check the time – are you giving medication at the correct time?



## Your child's medication

Your nurse will provide you with further information about the frequency and dosage of the medication your child has been prescribed and write the details in the table below.

Name of medication	What is this medication for?	What dose needs to be given?	Times of doses

IV medication can be given in different ways listed below. Your child's IV medication will be delivered using (to be filled in by the nurse):

Pre-mixed syringes	✓
Ready to use infuser device	✓
Adding medication to infuser devices	✓
Bolus (giving by injection)	✓
Infusion gravity giving sets	✓

Your nurse will provide you with training and a separate information sheet containing step-by-step instructions for giving your medication.

You can view a video showing the way your child's IV medication should be given on our website (see *More information* on page 13).



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## Contact details

Call the main hospital switchboard on **0330 12 88121**, and ask the operator for the extensions below:

Cystic fibrosis clinical nurse specialists **ext 8755**  
(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)

If your request is urgent outside these hours, please contact the paediatric respiratory registrar on-call.

Paediatric respiratory registrar on-call call the switchboard and ask for **bleep 1237**  
(available 24-hours)

Rose ward nursing team **exts 2411, 2412 or 2413**  
(available 24-hours)

Paediatric pharmacy team **ext 4375**  
(Monday to Friday, 9am-5.30pm)

call the switchboard and ask for bleeps **7403,7410 or 7425**  
(available 24-hours)

Email: [rbh-tr.paediatricpharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:rbh-tr.paediatricpharmacy@nhs.net)

## Medicines advisory service

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medication, please speak to the staff caring for you or contact our medicines advisory service.

Tel: **020 7351 8901 ext. 2222** (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)

Email: [medinfo@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:medinfo@rbht.nhs.uk)

## More information

See videos and more information on the Home Intravenous (IV) therapy service page on the Trust's website:

[www.rbht.nhs.uk/our-services/clinical\\_support/home-intravenous-iv-therapy-service](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk/our-services/clinical_support/home-intravenous-iv-therapy-service)



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## Your notes

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If you have concerns about any aspect of the service you have received in hospital and feel unable to talk to those people responsible for your care, call the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on:

- Royal Brompton Hospital – 020 7349 7715
- Harefield Hospital – 01895 826 572

You can also email [pals@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@rbht.nhs.uk). This is a confidential service.



Royal Brompton Hospital  
Sydney Street  
London  
SW3 6NP  
Tel: 0330 12 88121

Harefield Hospital  
Hill End Road  
Harefield  
Middlesex  
UB9 6JH  
Tel: 0330 12 88121

Website: [www.rbht.nhs.uk](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk)

Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals are part of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على ترجمة فورية لمضمون هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية، يرجى منك الاتصال بأحد مستخدمينا بجناح المصلحة التي يتم فيها استشفائك. أحد موظفينا سيسعى لترتيب إجراءات الترجمة وإتمامها في الوقت المناسب لك.

Brosurteki bilginin Türkçe tercemesi için tedavi görüyor olduğunuz bölüme bas vurunuz. Bölüm personeli tercemenin gerçekleşmesini en kısa zamanda ayarlayacaktır.

