

How to stop further Cellulitis episodes

- If you have a cut or graze, clean it, cover it, check it every day
- Go to the doctor immediately if the area gets very red, if redness spreads, or if the site gets painful and swollen
- If you smoke, try to stop as this can affect circulation
- If you have athletes foot or tinea, talk to your doctor to get this treated

MY INFORMATION

GP Phone:

Please call your GP if you have any problems

POAC Case Reference Number:

Appointments:



Primary Options
for
Acute Care

POAC Patient Cellulitis Information

What is Cellulitis?

Cellulitis is a common infection of the skin and affects people of all ages. Cellulitis commonly affects your legs or arms, but may occur anywhere on the body.

As Cellulitis may cause you to be unwell it is VERY important that it be treated and it is essential that you take your full course of antibiotics.

Usually a course of oral antibiotics is given but sometimes, as in your case, a series of intravenous (IV) antibiotics is necessary to control the infection.

What will happen now?

Intravenous Antibiotics: You will require intravenous antibiotics for approximately 3 days. The antibiotic is given in intravenous fluid and dripped through a needle placed in your vein and will take approximately 20 minutes, once a day by your doctor or nurse. These visits are free under POAC

Oral Medications: You may be given a bottle of Probenecid tablets which help the antibiotic work better. Take these tablets twice a day, one in the morning and evening, for 3 days.

Oral Antibiotics: Following your IV antibiotic treatment your doctor will prescribe you antibiotic tablets. It is important that you take the full course of prescribed antibiotics.

In some cases if the infection does not improve, you may need to be admitted to hospital for treatment.

What about discomfort?

In the first few days you may experience some discomfort from your Cellulitis. Take 2 tablets of paracetamol (Panadol®) every 4-6 hours as required, but do not take more than 8 tablets a day (24 hours).

Things to remember

Your doctor will see you every day to check your infection, but remember to rest and **raise** the affected area, attend all your appointments, take the full course of antibiotics prescribed and contact your doctor immediately if you have concerns or your symptoms become worse.



The infection should clear up within 2 weeks.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- **Fever/chills/sweats/rash/headaches**
- **The redness or swelling around the infection gets worse**
- **Pain increases**
- **You think something is wrong or you are generally feeling more unwell**

REST IN BED AND RAISE THE AFFECTED AREA

This is very important. You should be resting at all times, except to go to the bathroom or when travelling to the doctor.