

Intravenous ceftriaxone for children having treatment in the home

This leaflet gives information about your child's intravenous antibiotics to treat their infection. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a doctor or nurse looking after your child.

What is ceftriaxone?

Ceftriaxone is an antibiotic which is commonly used to treat infections caused by bacteria. It is important that your child receives ceftriaxone to kill the bacteria causing their infection.

How is ceftriaxone given?

Ceftriaxone is only available as an injection and is given through a small plastic tube (cannula) intravenously (into a vein). Ceftriaxone is usually given 1 time each day. Usually a nurse will come to your house to give the medication, or you might be taught to give the medication yourself.

What is the dose of ceftriaxone?

Your doctor will work out the amount (dose) of ceftriaxone that is right for your child. The dose will be written on their discharge paperwork.

Side effects

We use medicines to make your child better, but sometimes they have side effects. Ceftriaxone is generally a safe drug, but it can have serious side effects. Because of this, your child's first dose of ceftriaxone will be given in hospital, where the nursing staff can monitor them for any side effects, like allergy.

Side effects that you must do something about

If your child gets a skin rash, itching or has problems breathing (such as shortness of breath or wheezing), or if their face, throat, lips or tongue start to swell, they might be allergic to ceftriaxone. **Seek urgent medical advice and attention or call an ambulance straight away.**

Contact the team (details at the end of this leaflet) looking after your child for advice if your child develops any of the following symptoms:

- a rash or any skin problems such as blisters, spots, peeling, scaling, redness or other colour change
- severe diarrhoea that lasts for more than 2 days, and particularly if it contains blood, mucus (slimy substance) or is very pale
- dark wee (urine) or yellowing of the skin or the white part of the eye (jaundice)

Can other medicines be given at the same time as ceftriaxone?

You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen unless your doctor has told you not to. If your child is taking any other medicines, tell your doctor or pharmacist. Check with your doctor or pharmacist **before** giving any other medicines to your child. This includes medicines that you can buy over the counter, and herbal or complementary medicines

Is there anything else you need to know?

Ceftriaxone is a type of antibiotic called a cephalosporin. Your child should not have ceftriaxone if they are allergic to cephalosporins. **Make sure you tell your doctor if your child has ever shown any signs of allergy to any medicines.**

Where to keep this medicine

Keep this medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge. Make sure that children cannot reach the medicine. Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Contact us

The paediatric outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (p-OPAT) team

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact p-OPAT clinical nurse specialist, **tel:** 07771 678 353, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. You can also contact the p-OPAT nurse by calling the switchboard, **tel:** 020 7188 7188 and asking for the bleep desk. Ask for bleep 3053 and wait for a response. This will connect you to the p-OPAT nurse directly.

The Evelina London @home team

Please contact the nurse on call, by calling the switchboard, **tel:** 020 7188 7188, Monday to Sunday, 8am to 10pm.

Outside these hours, contact your GP, NHS 111, or go to your nearest Emergency Department (A&E).

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **web:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch, **tel:** 020 7188 8815, **email:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day, **tel:** 111, **web:** www.111.nhs.uk

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