

# Your Child's Intravenous (IV) Antibiotic Treatment Plan at Home

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## Why do I need to give my child IV antibiotics?

Your child has a serious infection that needs treatment. Your child can leave the hospital, but still needs to get antibiotic medicines through a vein (IV antibiotics) once they are at home. Often, these medicines are used to treat infections such as meningitis, bloodstream infections, and brain and soft tissue sores (abscesses).

This is the infection that your child has:

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Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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## How can I help my child at home?

It is very important to give your child the antibiotics exactly as your child's provider tells you. For the medicine to work, you should give doses on time and not miss doses. IV antibiotics usually need to be kept in the refrigerator.

Here is the antibiotic your child is getting and how often you will give it through the IV. Your child's provider will put a check next to the medicine or medicines that your child will be taking.

Name of medicine	Other names	Times of day that your child takes the medicine
<input type="checkbox"/> Cefazolin	Ancef	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vancomycin		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clindamycin		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ceftriaxone	Rocephin	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meropenem	Merrem	
<input type="checkbox"/> Piperacillin/ Tazobactam	Zosyn	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nafcillin		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

### To Learn More

- Infectious Disease and Virology  
206-987-2073, option 2
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- [seattlechildrens.org](http://seattlechildrens.org)

### Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

### Schedule clinic appointments

When your child is taking these medicines, it is important to check how well the medicines are working and see if there are any problems. They will need to come in for regular appointments to make sure everything is going OK. At your first follow-up appointment we will talk about how often you will need to return.

- Please call the Infectious Disease Clinic to schedule an appointment for your child with a doctor or nurse practitioner. You may need to combine these visits with other appointments at Seattle Children's.
- Please call the Infectious Disease Clinic 206-987-2073, option 1, to set up your appointments. These appointments are on Friday mornings.

### What side effects or problems should I watch my child for?

Common side effects of these medicines are:

- Vomiting (throwing up)
- Diarrhea (loose or watery bowel movements)
- Stomach pain
- Rashes
- Thrush (looks like white patches on your child's mouth or tongue)

Please call the clinic if your child has these symptoms and you are worried about them.

The antibiotics may also cause changes in the results of blood tests. This is why we will monitor laboratory tests every week.

### What lab tests will my child get?

Each week your child will have laboratory tests. We will work with the home healthcare company providing your child's medication to have these blood tests taken; usually the dressing on your child's IV site is changed. It is a good idea to talk to your child's home care nurse to make sure your child gets all of the lab tests that are needed.

Your child's provider will put a check next to all of the tests that your child will need:

#### Tests for inflammation

- ESR (erythrocyte sedimentation rate)
- CRP (C-reactive protein)

#### White blood cell test

- CBC with differential

#### Tests to see how well the kidneys are working

- BUN (Blood Urea Nitrogen)
- Cr (Creatinine)
- Mg (Magnesium)
- Electrolytes

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### Tests to see how well the liver is working

- AST (Aspartate Aminotransferase)
- ALT (Alanine Aminotransferase)
- GGT (Gamma Glutamyl Transferase)

### Test for levels of medicine in the blood

- Antibiotic Levels
- Other tests \_\_\_\_\_

To find out about your child's lab results, call the Infectious Disease clinic follow-up number 206-987-2073, option 4.

### What should I do if there are any problems with my child's PICC line?

Your child's home healthcare team has taught you how to give the antibiotics and care for the PICC line.

If your child has problems with the PICC you should call your home IV therapy company first. The infectious disease team and the home IV therapy company will discuss with you the best way to solve the problem with the PICC line.

### When should I call my child's doctor?

Call your child's doctor right away if your child has:

- A fever over 101 F
- Redness or swelling around the PICC line
- Drainage from the PICC site
- The symptoms that your child had when they first got sick come back
- Other: