

MGUH ID Website Content- April 1, 2022

If you are a patient on home intravenous antibiotics from an Infectious Diseases consultation at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital:

Sign-up to the myMedstar patient portal where you may be able to view your labs, imaging, and message your provider team. <https://www.medstarhealth.org/mymedstar-patient-portal>

Make sure that you have the following Important Contact Numbers:

- Yasmine Mathews, CRNP: (202)444-0128, clinician for patients on outpatient IV antibiotics
- Infectious Diseases Clinic: (202)444-0086, general clinic number
- Infusion Nurse: make sure to ask your nurse during the first home teaching session for a contact number
- Infusion Agency Contact Numbers: the name of the company should be on the delivery package

INFUSION AGENCIES	PHONE
Advanced Home Infusion	(423)378-7350
Bioscrip Home Infusion	(703)230-4638
Continuum Rx	(703)935-2060
Coram/CVS- Columbia, MD	(410)720-6501
Coram/CVS- Chantilly, VA	(703)631-1611
CV RX Home Infusion	(561)826-0711
First Call Infusion	(800)877-5705
Horizons Home Infusion	(703)537-0107
IV Solutions	(443)513-4301
Johns Hopkins Pharmequip	(410)288-8105
Kaiser Home Infusion	(703)249-7922
MedPlus Infusion	(443)641-8090
Nations Home Infusion	(888)473-8376
Northwest Infusion Center	(410)521-8393
Nutrishare Infusion	(800)262-4873
Optioncare Home Infusion-Columbia, MD	(301)362-7800
Optioncare Home Infusion-Chantilly, VA	(703)230-4638
OptumRX Home Infusion	(800)715-6650
Pharmacare Home Infusion	(301)723-2444
Sentara Home Infusion	(757)553-3000
Univ of Maryland Infusion	(443)462-5850
Valley Vital Infusion	(540)569-3463

*** If you are in a nursing home or rehabilitation facility, please contact your unit nurse at the facility for questions. ***

Frequently asked questions about home antibiotic infusions

Who to contact?

Who should I call if I have questions about related to my wound care or my drains? You should contact your surgeon, wound care provider, or the provider that placed the drain. For procedures that were performed at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital please see the following clinic numbers:

- Interventional Radiology (for drains placed at Georgetown): 202-444-5478 option #3 for the nurse.
- Center for Wound Healing: 202-444-6161
- ENT (Otolaryngology) Clinic: 202-444-8186
- Gastroenterology Clinic: 202-444-8541
- General Surgery Clinic: 202-444-7106
- Oncology (Lombardi Cancer Clinic): 202-444-2223
- Neurosurgery Clinic: 202-444-4972
- Orthopaedics Clinic: 202-444-8766
- Plastic Surgery Clinic: 202-444-6161

Who should I call if I need more supplies, or I need another medication delivery? You should call the infusion agency to request more supplies and confirm when your next delivery has been scheduled. (**Hint:** you can find the infusion agency contact number on your medication delivery package or in your information folder).

Who should I call if I have questions about when and how to take my medication? You should call your infusion nurse.

Who should I call about steps for connecting to my medication? You should call your infusion nurse.

Who should I call to schedule a follow-up appointment for IV antibiotics? Most follow-up appointments will be scheduled before you leave the hospital. If you are not sure, you can call Yasmine Mathews, CRNP in the Infectious Diseases clinic at phone (202)444-0128.

Who should I call to ask about my plan? You should call Yasmine Mathews, CRNP in the Infectious Diseases clinic at phone (202)444-0128.

Who should I call about my lab results? You should call Yasmine Mathews, CRNP in the Infectious Diseases clinic at phone (202)444-0128, she can review your weekly lab results with you.

Who should I call to get my records from the hospital? For hospital admission records, call Medical Records Department phone (202)444-3392

Medication side effects, allergies, or emergencies?

What should I do if I am having a side effect or a non-severe allergic reaction (rash, hives, itching) to the medication? **STOP THE MEDICATION.** During business hours, you should call Yasmine Mathews, CRNP in the Infectious Disease clinic at phone (202)444-0128. After hours, you should call (202)444-0086 and press the option for the on-call team.

- For SEVERE allergic reactions, (including but not limited to eye rash, eye swelling, lip swelling, tongue swelling, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, feeling faint, chest pain) **STOP THE MEDICATION.** Then call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department

What should I do if I am having an emergency? You should go to the nearest emergency department if you are experiencing any of the following:

- A sustained fever of 100.4° or more
- A racing pulse or irregular heartbeat
- Gurgling sound from your intravenous catheter
- Any sign of infection at catheter insertion site (redness, swelling, discharge)
- Wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath
- Arm swelling in the arm with the PICC line or on the side of your Hickman catheter
- Your catheter falls out, leaks, or breaks
- Pain or burning in your arm, chest, shoulder, back, or leg
- Any symptoms that you may deem severe enough to be immediately evaluated by a physician

Questions on your care/antibiotic plan?

Who makes the decision about stopping my IV antibiotics? The decision to stop the IV antibiotics is dependent on several factors including your progress, your weekly labs, repeat imaging, and input from other departments (ie. your surgeon, wound center, transplant team, etc.). The Infectious Diseases team will use all this information to determine the plan and when it will be time to stop the IV antibiotics.

What happens when I am done with my IV antibiotics? At the end of therapy, your final labs will be reviewed, and you will receive a call from Yasmine Mathews, CRNP about completing your IV antibiotics. If you have a PICC line in your arm, it can be removed by the infusion nurse at home. You will not need to come back to the hospital. If you have a Hickman in your chest, you will be scheduled for an appointment at the Interventional Radiology department to have the Hickman removed.

When can I expect a call back if I leave a voice message? All calls are returned within 24 to 48 hours.

What will be done during my hospital follow-up telehealth appointment? During the hospital follow-up telehealth appointment, we will discuss your progress, the progress of your IV antibiotic infusions, your weekly lab results, and the plan for your IV antibiotic therapy.

Questions on intravenous catheter (PICC line or Hickman line)?

What happens to my PICC line after completing IV antibiotics? If you have a PICC line in your arm, it can be removed by the infusion nurse at home. You will not need to come back to the hospital. If you have a Hickman in your chest, you will be scheduled for an appointment at the Interventional Radiology department in the hospital to have the Hickman catheter removed.

How do I maintain my PICC line or Hickman catheter after stopping IV antibiotics? To maintain the Hickman catheter, flush the line once daily with normal saline and heparin including the day of the Hickman removal appointment.

How should I take care of my intravenous catheter? It is extremely important that you protect your intravenous catheter from any damage to maintain function and prevent infection:

- Always practice good hand hygiene prior to any manipulation of your catheter. This should include washing with warm water and soap or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep your PICC line dry. Do not take baths, swim, use hot tubs, or any type of submersion with an intravenous catheter. If the dressing gets wet, it must be changed immediately by the infusion nurse.
- Do not allow sharp objects near your PICC line. This includes knives, scissors, or anything that could effectively slice your line. Also, do not allow for the rubber on your catheter to be tugged by clothing, small children, or pets.
- Watch for any catheter malfunction issues, making note of any leaks, cracks, or movement. If your dressing becomes dirty or loose, inform your infusion nurse.
- Do not participate in any activities that require intense usage of your arm, such as sports, or heavy lifting. Do not lift anything more than 10 pounds with the arm that has the catheter in place.
- If an activity is hurting your arm, stop doing it immediately.

What should I do if my PICC line becomes dislodged? During business hours, you should call Yasmine Mathews, CRNP in the Infectious Disease clinic at phone (202)444-0128. After hours or the weekend, you should go to the Medstar Georgetown University Hospital Emergency Department.

Contributed to by Yasmine Mathews, CRNP and Matthew Copeland, DO