
Patient Information – Cellulitis

Cellulitis is a bacterial infection of the soft tissues underlying and involving the skin. It mainly affects the limbs (arms or legs); and usually develops from a break in the skin such as a wound or fungal infection e.g. athlete's foot.

Most patients require oral antibiotics and are advised to rest and elevate the affected limb. Please take the antibiotics as prescribed and follow the instructions on the packaging. You may need to take the antibiotics for up to 2 weeks. We can only dispense 1 week's dose at a time, so please see your GP for a further prescription before your medicine runs out.

Occasionally intravenous (IV - given into the vein) antibiotics are prescribed, which may be administered at home by a team of specialist nurses known as the Acute Response Team (ART).

In some circumstances hospital admission may be advised.

You should return to A&E if:

- you develop a fever (high temperature) and become unwell
- the redness appears to be getting worse and spreading further
- you cannot tolerate the antibiotics

Further Advice/Instructions:

Please use this section to give the patient specific information e.g. follow up appointments or after care advice.

Local Services Information

The NHS Direct Wales website www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/localservices allows you to search for local services in your area such as hospitals and pharmacy. Choose the service you require and follow the guidance on how to search.

CELLULITIS cont.



If you become unwell or are injured, choose the right NHS service to make sure you get the best treatment. The Choose Well campaign explains what each NHS service does, and when it should be used.

Choosing well means that you and your family will get the best treatment. It also allows busy NHS services to help the people who need them most. If you are unsure about which option to choose, please call NHS Direct Wales on 0845 46 47 or visit the choose well website www.choosewellwales.org.uk

If you require this information in another language or format please ask a member of staff.

For further advice or information contact NHS Direct Wales 0845 46 47
www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk

This information has been produced based on previous information leaflets and the evidence available at the time of publication. It has been clinically reviewed however if you notice anything that needs updating or amending please contact ppi.team@wales.nhs.uk