

# Complex OutPatient Antimicrobial Therapy (COPAT) Service

## Information for patients

This leaflet aims to provide you with information about the COPAT service. If you have further questions, please speak to the COPAT pharmacist or doctor.

### **What is COPAT?**

COPAT is Complex OutPatient Antimicrobial Therapy. The COPAT team provides monitoring and reviews for patients receiving oral (tablet) antibiotics. We work jointly with medical and surgical teams to provide the safest and most patient-centred approach for managing a variety of infections. The COPAT team includes specialist pharmacists, specialist nurses, and infectious diseases doctors. They are also part of the Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic (OPAT) service that provides intravenous antibiotics for patients in the community.

The COPAT team will take responsibility for the antibiotics and monitor for side effects, but patients will remain under the care of their hospital consultant until the oral antibiotic course is complete.

### **What is COPAT?**

The COPAT service makes sure that your antibiotic treatment is safe and effective. Specialist supervision is required for some infections particularly if a long course of antibiotics or antibiotics with a higher risk of side effects are used.

### **How will I be monitored?**

Patients are reviewed in clinic either by telephone or in-person appointments. Blood tests will be done in the hospital or through your GP. Other tests, for an electrocardiogram (ECG) and hearing tests may occasionally be required and will be done in clinic or the main hospital.

### **Who will review my blood results?**

The COPAT pharmacist, or other team member, will review your blood results and monitor your progress. The pharmacist will also discuss any concerning results with the rest of the COPAT team. We will keep you updated with these results and any changes needed.

### **What to do if I have run out of medicines?**

Antibiotics will be given to you on discharge from hospital, if more antibiotics are needed then the COPAT team will issue these, which can be collected or delivered from the King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Outpatient Pharmacy.

## How long is the treatment?

The length of your treatment depends on the type of infection, it can be weeks or months. Your doctors will explain how long you will need the antibiotics before you start COPAT, but please be aware this may change depending on your response to treatment.

## How often will I be reviewed?

The COPAT team will call you regularly to check how you are feeling. This may be weekly or much less often depending on the antibiotic and your response to treatment. Most patients will be offered a telephone appointment instead of attending the OPAT clinic in person, however occasionally you may need to come for an in-person appointment with the COPAT team on a Wednesday morning.

The clinic is held in the Caldecot Centre which is a separate building located on Caldecot Road, but very close to the main King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill. You may also need to attend hospital appointments with a doctor from the team who looked after you while you were in hospital.

## What should I do if I feel unwell?

All medicines can have side effects; please refer to your specific antibiotic information leaflet supplied with your medication for possible side effects.

If you experience any of the following symptoms, please inform a member of the COPAT service as soon as possible.

- High temperature – feeling hot/cold/shaking
- Dizziness, facial flushing or rash
- Sore throat, aching, headache, nausea or diarrhoea
- Feeling generally unwell

In very rare cases severe reactions may occur. This may include:

- Swollen throat/mouth
- Swollen eyes, lips, hands or feet
- Wheezing or difficulty breathing
- Feeling faint or collapse
- Abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting

If you experience a severe reaction, please call 999.

## Who to contact?

OPAT/COPAT Pharmacist **020 3299 9163** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.30pm).

OPAT Clinical Nurse Specialists on **020 3299 8593** or **020 3299 7021** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

For information about appointments, please email the OPAT admin team:

**kch-tr.opat.admin@nhs.net** or call **020 3299 2165** (OPAT Pathway Coordinator)

In an emergency, please call **111** or **999** for an ambulance or go to your nearest emergency unit (A&E).

## **MyChart**

Our MyChart app and website lets you securely access parts of your health record with us, giving you more control over your care. Visit [www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart](http://www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart) to find out more.

## **Sharing your information**

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has partnered with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust through the King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas' hospitals. King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trusts share an electronic patient record system, which means information about your health record can be accessed safely and securely by health and care staff at both Trusts. For more information visit [www.kch.nhs.uk](http://www.kch.nhs.uk).

## **Care provided by students**

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

## **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

## **PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS**

Tel: **020 3299 4618**

Email: [kings.pals@nhs.net](mailto:kings.pals@nhs.net)

**If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email [kings.access@nhs.net](mailto:kings.access@nhs.net)**

**[www.kch.nhs.uk](http://www.kch.nhs.uk)**