



Stafford Pharmacy & Home Healthcare

The Mortar & Pestle

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Home Parenteral Therapy Program (HPTP)

What is the Home Parenteral Therapy Program?

The Home Parenteral Therapy Program, or HPTP, is a program which allows patients to receive intravenous (IV) medications in the comfort of their home after being discharged from the hospital. This allows them to avoid hospital admission or having to go back to the emergency department once to four times daily to receive intravenous antibiotic therapy.

What are the benefits of the Home Parenteral Therapy Program?

- The patient can return home sooner when faced with a serious infection that requires long term antibiotics. This allows for a more relaxed recovery.
- Shortened hospital stays means hospital beds are freed for those requiring acute care. It also results in reduced healthcare system costs
- Avoidance of hospital admission. In some cases, serious infections can be treated at home right from the start.

Which types of infections require therapy with intravenous antibiotics?

Intravenous antibiotics are reserved for serious and complicated infections. It is essential that we only use these antibiotics when required. Using intravenous antibiotics when not needed can lead to resistance (see back page). Infections requiring intravenous antibiotics include:

- Infections of the bone
- Severe and complicated skin and soft tissue infections
- Blood infections
- Infections resistant to oral antibiotics



How long is an intravenous antibiotic therapy course?

The duration of therapy required depends on the infection being treated. Therapy for milder infections may be as short as 7-10 days. However, more severe infections such as bone infections may require therapy for 6-12 weeks or longer.



How are intravenous therapies prepared?

Intravenous therapies must be prepared in a sterile environment like an isolator hood in our compounding lab. This means intravenous therapies can not be purchased from most pharmacies. At Stafford Pharmacy we are able to provide this service to Lethbridge and area with our specialized equipment!

For more information about the HPTP program offered by Stafford Pharmacy speak with a member of our pharmacy team today!

Fighting Antibiotic Resistance

What is antibiotic resistance? Antibiotic resistance (ABR) is a growing concern. Resistance means the bacteria that were once killed by a particular antibiotic medication are no longer susceptible to that same medication. This means that we are running out of effective medications to treat bacterial infections, and the bacteria are outsmarting medicine.

Why should you be concerned about antibiotic resistance? Antibiotic resistance kills. When antibiotics no longer work to treat infections, prolonged illness can result. This increases health care costs (due to prolonged hospitalization), and more importantly, increases the risk of death.

How can PEOPLE prevent antibiotic resistance from worsening?

- **Only use antibiotics when a bacterial infection is present** – Common colds, bronchitis, and laryngitis do not require therapy with antibiotics. **Not all bugs need drugs!** The common cold is caused by a virus therefore antibiotics DO NOT help to treat the common cold!
- **When you visit your doctor to have a cold checked, don't ask for an antibiotic** – It is known that if you "want" or "ask" for an antibiotic you are more likely to get a prescription, even if you don't need one. Try presenting to your doctor with "I came in today to make sure I don't have an infection," or "I wanted to make sure that I don't need an antibiotic to treat this cold." This will help to prevent you from receiving unnecessary antibiotic therapy.
- **Complete the full course of antibiotic therapy** – When the full course of antibiotic therapy isn't used, bacteria are not fully killed. This means that a few surviving bacteria are able to grow in the presence of low levels of antibiotics in your body. When this occurs, the bacteria "learn" how to become resistant to the antibiotic.
- **Never use an un-used portion of antibiotics from a previous infection, or someone else's previous infection to treat a cold** - Not all bacterial infections are able to be treated with the same antibiotic. So an antibiotic for a bladder infection will not work for a skin or throat infection. Additionally, doses may vary from person to person and depending on the type of infection.
- **Wash your hands! Hand washing is the best way to stop the spread of infections!**

How can PHARMACISTS prevent antibiotic resistance from worsening?

- **By making sure that the antibiotic prescribed is appropriate for the infection that you are being treated for** – Antibiotic Guidelines are updated frequently. It is the pharmacist's job to ensure that the antibiotic prescribed is right for the infection being treated.
- **By ensuring the dose prescribed is high enough for the infection being treated** – When it comes to antibiotics, under dosing is dangerous for two reasons: it leads to resistance (as mentioned above), and it means the infection won't be treated appropriately.
- **By ensuring the antibiotic is prescribed for the correct duration of time and that the patient understands how to use it and how long to use it for.**

When it comes to antibiotics it is essential that they are used ONLY when required. When they are required, it is imperative that the RIGHT ANTIBIOTIC is used at the RIGHT DOSE for the RIGHT DURATION OF TIME.

For more information visit: www.dobugsneeddrugs.org

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