OPAT (Home IV’s) Information Leaflet for Patients with Cystic Fibrosis

[National Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy and Cystic Fibrosis Programmes 20 May 2013]

What is OPAT?

OPAT is the Out Patient Antimicrobial Therapy service. OPAT is provided for patients requiring intravenous antibiotic treatment and is given to patients in their own home (sometimes referred to as Home IV’s). This treatment is also available for patients with Cystic Fibrosis.

Who provides the OPAT service?

Your Cystic Fibrosis team will continue to manage your intravenous antibiotic treatment as always.

The HSE tendered for the provision of a national OPAT service and the contract was recently awarded to TCP and Fannin (this is a joint arrangement by both vendors). Both these companies have provided a number of patient services nationally and have a good track record in this area of care. This changeover to the new vendors is currently underway and you will notice this change the next time you need to access the OPAT service.

What is provided from the OPAT service?

The service provided for OPAT is similar to what you have received before and will include the following:

- The antibiotics as prescribed by your Cystic Fibrosis team and everything that is needed for the administration of these antibiotics e.g. gloves, extension kits, wipes, fridges etc.
- A sharps waste management service
- Blood tests if required
- A 24 hours/7 days a week patient care helpdesk, which is available to respond to any related queries from either patients or healthcare staff.
- The administration device may be somewhat different from what you have been used to using. TCP and Fannin are available to provide training and support to you to ensure you are completely satisfied and confident when using the new device.

What if I have a question? Who should I contact when I am at home?

Your CF team is always happy to take a call from you, and in addition the patient care helpdesk is available 24hrs/7 days a week to answer any of your questions or queries. They can be contacted at 01-4276007.

ENDS.