

## **Louth: Antimicrobial Guidelines - Louth Hospitals: Antimicrobial Guidelines: OPAT**

### **OPAT Referral Pathway**

All OPAT referrals must be discussed with and approved by the ID Consultant or by the Consultant Microbiologist covering the OPAT service. Once patient approved, contact the OPAT Liaison Nurse for assistance in arranging OPAT and for provision of patient information.

The admitting Consultant is responsible for all aspects of clinical care for patients referred to OPAT for the duration of OPAT and should be available to discuss aspects of care with the OPAT provider if required.

See [www.opat.ie](http://www.opat.ie) for further information

### **Patient Inclusion Criteria**

- Requires prolonged IV therapy and not suitable for oral switch
- Clinically stable and otherwise fit for discharge
- Clear treatment plan in place
- Appropriate IV access in place for the duration of OPAT
- Capable of understanding the implications of their underlying condition, the importance of line care and potential complications
- Access to a telephone and able to contact OPAT if any problems arise
- Stable home environment with no drug or alcohol dependency
- Ability and transport to be reviewed weekly in the hospital while receiving OPAT

### **Other Points to Note**

- Ensure antimicrobial prescribed is available on OPAT
- Maximum antimicrobial frequency of three times daily
- Patient must receive at least one dose of the OPAT antibiotic in hospital prior to discharge.