

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT)

Information for patients

Western General Hospital – 0131 537 2844

East Lothian Community Hospital - 01620 642885

Welcome to OPAT

OPAT is a 7 day a week service for patients who are on antimicrobials (medicines used to prevent and treat infectious diseases). We aim to provide the right care in the right place, so you don't have to stay in hospital longer than necessary.

Access to OPAT

You might be referred to OPAT after a stay in hospital, through your GP or from the Accident and Emergency department and other health professionals.

Where we are

Our main site is at the Regional Infectious Diseases Unit, Ward 41 at the Western General Hospital. We are available 7 days a week with appointments between 08:30–16:00.

We also have a hub based within the East Lothian Community Hospital.

What is the process?

Your first appointment will normally be at the Western General Hospital, but if you would benefit from attending the East Lothian Community Hospital instead, this can be arranged.

We are a nurse-led service who meet regularly with consultants and pharmacists to discuss the best care for you. You will be updated with any changes to your treatment plan and have the opportunity to ask questions at any point that the nursing staff will answer.

If you are attending for the treatment of cellulitis, you will be assessed by an experienced nurse and a treatment plan will be agreed.

Depending on your treatment, you will be in the department for around 30–60 minutes. If you come with a relative or friend, we will ask them to wait in the waiting room while you receive your treatment.

If appropriate, you may be shown how to self-administer your antibiotics. A nurse will show you or a relative/friend how to deliver the antibiotics over a minimum of 3 days. Thereafter you would administer your treatment at home. You will be required to attend weekly for blood tests and a prescription.

You may have been prescribed oral antibiotics that require blood monitoring. If so, you will have a weekly appointment for blood tests and for prescription collection.

If you require wound dressings, you should visit your GP Surgery for this.

Travel to the Western General Hospital

If travelling by car enter the hospital via Telford Road. Car park 8 is the closest to the department. Press the buzzer and tell us that you have an appointment in OPAT. Parking is free.

There are frequent buses to the hospital however the majority of these arrive at the main road of the hospital. You will have to walk through the hospital to OPAT.

Patient Transport can be made arranged if you have a medical need. This must be arranged by you or the doctor who referred you. Telephone **0300 123 1236**.

Regional Infectious Diseases Unit (RIDU)

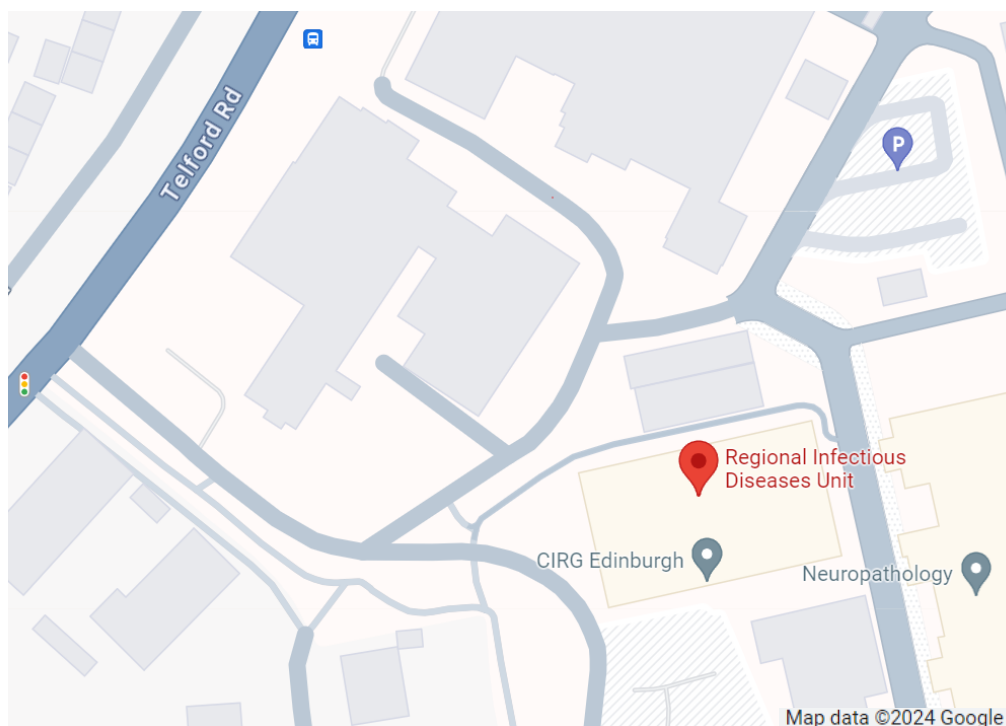
OPAT

Ward 41

Crewe Road South

Edinburgh

EH4 2XU



Visit www.google.com/maps or scan the QR code for directions



Travelling to East Lothian Community Hospital

OPAT is based in the Endoscopy and Minor Procedure Unit 1st floor.

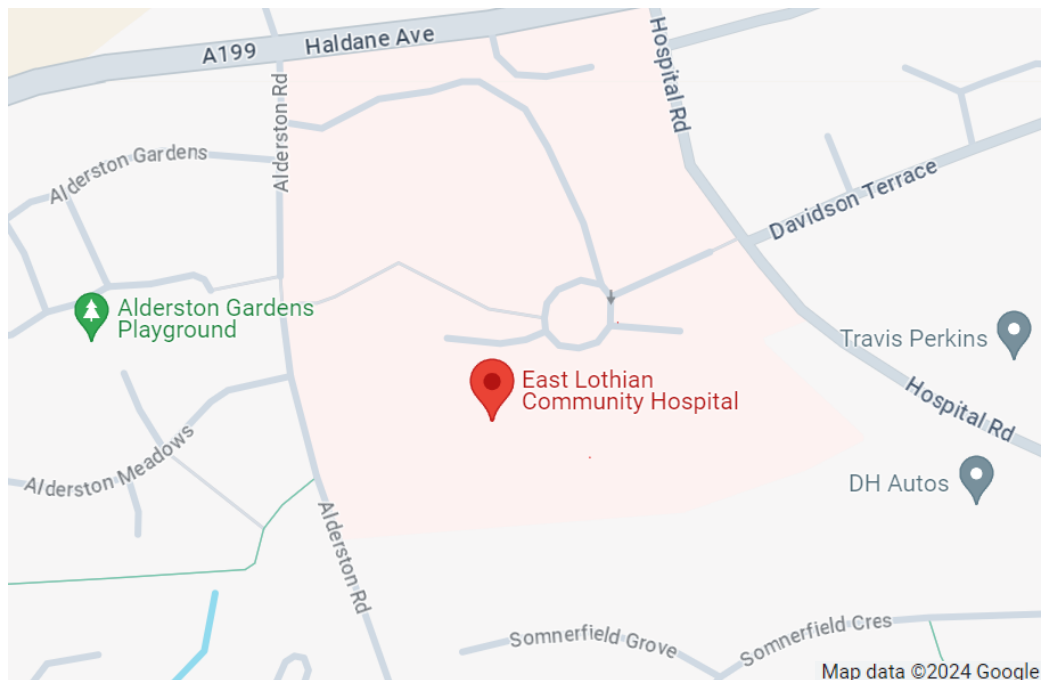
Lift access from main reception – press buzzer, check in for appointment at reception desk.

East Lothian Community Hospital

Alderston Road

Haddington

EH41 3PF



Visit www.google.com/maps or scan the QR code for directions



Side effects

Most people do not have any unwanted effects while taking medication, but very occasionally, there may be problems. Contact OPAT or the hospital if you develop any persistent:

- Diarrhoea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness or headache
- Any other symptoms you think may be a side effect.

Report immediately to your doctor any allergic reactions, including:

- Rash
- Itch
- Redness of the skin
- Swelling.

Anaphylaxis

This is a term used to describe a very severe allergic reaction which may involve both difficulty breathing and collapse.

What should you look out for?

You may see or feel some or all of the following:

- Severe itch and rash
- Sneezing, coughing and/or wheeze
- Flushed and red skin
- Swollen lips, face and tongue
- Difficulty breathing, speaking and swallowing
- Collapse.

What should you do? **DIAL 999.**

We would love to hear your feedback! Please visit the link or scan the QR code below to complete our short questionnaire.



<https://forms.office.com/e/GJBUixZgmJ>