West Coast District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Management Process for Treatment Of Soft Tissue Infection (Cellulitis) with IV Antibiotics

Patient presents with Soft Tissue Infection
i.e. Cellulitis, wound infection, bursitis etc.

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Seen by Doctor

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Does Patient Meets ED Assessment Guidelines for the Management of Cellulitis by GP ?

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No

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Provide IV antibiotics and other therapy as indicated

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Refer to appropriate specialty for admission, if indicated

Yes

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Medical Responsibilities

- Explain treatment plan to patient
- Gain verbal consent for treatment
- Mark demarcation line of redness with Indelible pen
- Chart IV antibiotics – Cefazolin 2g IV daily for 3/7
  Probenecid 1g PO daily for 3/7
- Complete Authority for Administration of Medication
- Complete pre-written script for Flucloxacillin 500mg (*to be commenced from day 4* given good response)
- Complete script for analgesia as prn
- Complete discharge documentation
- Copy of documentation to patient
- *Ensure that logbook completed with pack number, patient details, doctor details and date*

Emergency Department Nursing Responsibilities

- Explain treatment plan and gain consent to proceed
- Complete baseline temperature
- Insert IV Cannula as per procedure and flush. (This Cannula will be left in situ)
- Administer drugs as charted
- Provide appropriate wound care
- Complete patient documentation
- Fax referral to District Nurses
- Supply patient with "Cellulitis Pack" containing patient education, IV drugs etc.
- Discharge from department

District Nurse Responsibilities

- Daily visit
- Assess infection for signs of deterioration, abscess formation
- Record temperature and general wellness of patient
- Administer drugs as charted
- Provide wound care as appropriate
- Refer patient back to the GP if:
  - Deterioration of local infection
  - Persistence/occurrence of fever >38°C for 24 hours
  - IV Cannula tissues
  - Any sign of thrombophlebitis
  - Any untoward sign (excessive pain, not coping, generally unwell etc)
- Advise patient to contact GP for any other unrelated health matters
- Check Cannula is removed

Moving off the pathway:

- Refer the patient back to A&E
- A&E to consider:
- Extension of the initial IV course
- Different therapy, community based
- Admission