

Key performance indicators (KPIs) for the management of patients in an outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) setting

In 2019 the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) OPAT initiative published the updated [OPAT good practice recommendations](#)¹ (GPRs) for both adults and children. The Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) OPAT subgroup reviewed these recommendations to identify KPIs that would support the delivery of optimum care for patients in Scotland accessing OPAT services.

SAPG agreed a total of 14 KPIs (*see Table*), thirteen of which directly mapped to the original BSAC GPRs. An additional KPI was included for patients who were assessed for OPAT but who did not meet the inclusion criteria, as directing patients to the most appropriate care is recognised as an important function of the OPAT triage and assessment process. Each KPI has been categorised as relating to either patient care, clinical governance, training or communication. These KPIs will be sent to all OPAT teams in Scotland to implement locally for the purposes of clinical governance, local audit and quality improvement work.

Table: KPIs for the management of patients in an OPAT setting

KPI No.	BSAC reference	KPI	Purpose	Documented by when
1	-	Decision to offer OPAT or not is documented	Communication	Within 96 hours of referral
2	1.5	A documented 24 hour accessible management plan is in place	Patient Care	Within 24 hours of commencing OPAT
3	1.9	Documentation to show that (i) both GP and referrer informed of acceptance onto OPAT within 24 hours of commencing OPAT and that (ii) both referrer and GP informed on completion of OPAT, with follow-up management plan documented	Communication	Within 24 hours of commencing OPAT
4	2.5	Documentation that the patient received an OPAT Patient Information Leaflet incorporating treatment received and access to 24 hr emergency care	Patient Care	Any point during OPAT
5	3.3	Documented OPAT treatment plan that includes BSAC goals and proposed duration of therapy is in place within one week of commencing OPAT	Patient Care	Within 7 days of commencing OPAT
6	3.7	Documentation of assessment of antimicrobial prescriptions by an antimicrobial/infection pharmacist	Governance	Within 96 hours of commencing OPAT
7	3.1	A care plan is documented for the indwelling intravascular device	Patient Care	At time of vascular device insertion and until removal

KPI No.	BSAC reference	KPI	Purpose	Documented by when
8	3.13	Patients or carers (self)-administering IV medicines have competencies signed off by an OPAT nurse specialist	Training	Pre-commencement of self-administration
9	3.14	The first dose of all new IV antimicrobial therapy is administered and documented by an appropriately trained healthcare professional with facilities for anaphylaxis resuscitation	Governance	Within 24 hours of commencing OPAT
10	4.1	Patients with skin and soft tissue infection undergo documented daily clinical assessment by the OPAT team 7 days per week unless treated with long acting IV agent	Patient Care	Daily whilst receiving supervised IV therapy
11	4.2	The clinical response and treatment plan is documented at a weekly multidisciplinary team (MDT)/ virtual ward round	Communication	Weekly
12	4.3	If receiving >1 week antimicrobial therapy a clinical review (face to face or virtual) is documented by a member of the OPAT team weekly (or less frequently if agreed and documented)	Patient Care	Weekly
13	4.4	Blood monitoring with full blood count, renal/liver function, CRP taken weekly as minimum whilst on IV antibiotic or oral linezolid or as per drug monographs for other oral antibiotic regimens	Patient Care	Weekly
14	5.2	Clinical outcome is recorded as per the BSAC Good Practice Recommendations	Patient Care	On completion of OPAT episode

Reference

1. Chapman AL, Patel S, Horner C, Green H, Guleri A, Hedderwick S, Snape S, Statham J, Wilson E, Gilchrist M, Seaton RA. Updated good practice recommendations for outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) in adults and children in the UK. JAC-antimicrobial resistance. 2019 Sep;1(2):dlz026. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jacamr/dlz026>

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Table of Abbreviations

BSAC	British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy
CRP	C-reactive protein
GP	General practitioner
GPR	Good practice recommendations
IV	Intravenous
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
MDT	Multidisciplinary team
OPAT	Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy
SAPG	Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group