

# Cellulitis

## What is cellulitis?

Cellulitis is an infection of the skin. It is caused by bacteria, usually Streptococcus or Staphylococcus. It can affect most parts of the body and people of any age can develop cellulitis.

## Symptoms of cellulitis

Cellulitis may begin with a small, swollen area of pain or warmth with redness at the skin. The child may also feel unwell and develop a fever. Cellulitis usually begins in an area which has had:

- An insect bite, burn, abrasion or cut
- A surgical wound
- Skin problems such as eczema, psoriasis, scabies or acne
- A foreign object in the skin (metal, glass, plastic)

## Treatment of cellulitis

The treatment process can vary, but severe cellulitis will usually require antibiotics delivered directly into a vein through intravenous therapy. It is also important to rest and raise the affected area. Cellulitis around the eye area needs careful monitoring by a doctor.

## If hospitalised

### Admission

The admission process is an opportunity to discuss your child's hospital stay and any special needs they may have while in hospital or for going home.

### Visiting hours

The Cabrini Paediatric Ward does not have set visiting hours.

### Discharge

Your child will be discharged when your doctor is happy with their progress and condition and you are confident with caring for them at home.

Please report to the reception desk in the foyer of the hospital before leaving to finalise any administrative paperwork.

## Care at home

- It is important for your child to rest and if possible, raise the affected area through the use of pillows, or if suitable, a sling. This can reduce pain and swelling of the area.
- If your child has been prescribed further oral antibiotics at home, they must take the entire course
- Paracetamol and ibuprofen can be given to alleviate fever and discomfort
- Your child may have a decreased appetite. This is not unusual and their appetite will gradually return to normal. Encourage them to have regular fluids.

## Follow-up

Please contact your doctor's rooms to organise a follow-up appointment.

## When to contact your doctor

- The affected area appears to be worsening
- Persistent temperature of 38.5°C or higher

## Questions

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Ward using the phone number below.