

Guidance on the use of antibiotics in patients with Lymphoedema

In the UK there is guidance for healthcare professionals on using antibiotics to treat cellulitis when you have lymphoedema. The guidance is written by a group of specialist doctors and reviewed every year. It's important your GP follows this guidance when prescribing antibiotics for lymphoedema.

It's called the consensus document on the management of cellulitis in lymphoedema. It's available from the [British Lymphology Society](#). It may also be useful to keep antibiotics with you at home or to take antibiotics with you when you travel abroad. You can discuss this with your GP or lymphoedema specialist.

The antibiotics suggested in the document are:

- amoxicillin and/or flucloxacillin
- clarithromycin or erythromycin, if you're unable to take penicillin
- clindamycin, if the infection isn't better after 48 hours.

It's also important to rest and keep the affected area raised. Compression garments may need to be removed if the infection is severe. You may need pain relief from your doctor.

Some people with cellulitis need to be admitted to hospital to be given antibiotics into a vein (intravenous treatment). This normally happens when cellulitis is more severe or becomes worse despite having antibiotics at home.