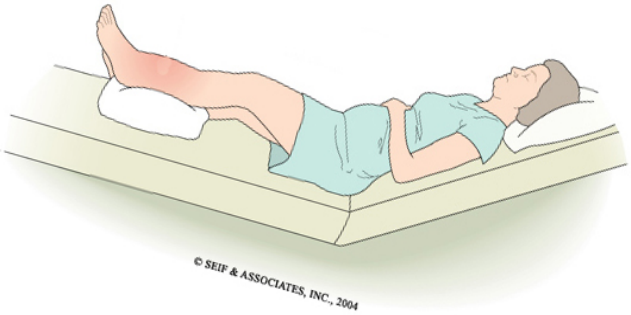
Cellulitis

Cellulitis is an infection of the skin and the tissue beneath it. The area is typically red and tender. It is caused by germs (*bacteria*) (usually staph or strep) that enter the body through cuts or sores. Cellulitis most commonly occurs in the arms and/or lower legs.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS



- If you are given a prescription for medications which kill germs (*antibiotics*), take as directed until finished.
- If the infection is on the arm or leg, keep the limb elevated as able.
- Use a warm cloth several times per day to relieve pain and encourage healing.
- See your caregiver for a recheck of the infected site in 2 days or sooner if problems arise.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- An oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops, or as your caregiver suggests, not controlled by medication.
- The area of redness is spreading, there are red streaks coming from the infected site, or if a part of the infection begins to turn dark in color.
- The joint or bone underneath the infected skin becomes painful after the skin has healed.
- The infection returns in the same or another area after it seems to have gone away.
- A boil or bump swells up. This may be an abscess.
- New, unexplained problems (*symptoms*) such as pain or fever develop.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You or your child feels drowsy or lethargic.
- There is vomiting, diarrhea, or generalized malaise with muscle aches and pains.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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