

Center for Prevention and Treatment of Infections
5153 N. 9th Ave Ste 305
Pensacola, Florida 32504
(850) 476-3131
FAX: (850) 476-4848

Educational Handout: Cellulitis

You have an infection of the skin known as cellulitis. This usually starts with a scrape, cut, insect bite, blister, or other opening in the skin which becomes infected. This is a serious condition. It must be watched closely to be sure the infection is not spreading.

With antibiotic treatment, the size of the red area will gradually shrink in size until the skin returns to normal. This in most cases will take 7-10 days.

The red area should never increase in size once the antibiotic has been started. Occasionally, an infection will be resistant to one antibiotic and other one will have to be used.

Home Care:

- 1) If the infection is on your arm or leg, keep the part **RAISED** as much as possible.
- 2) Limit your use of the affected extremity. If the infection is on your leg, walk as little as possible during the first few days of treatment.
- 3) Take all of the antibiotic medicine exactly as directed until it is gone. Be careful not to miss any doses, especially during the first few days.

Follow Up with your doctor or this facility as directed. If you were not given a specific follow-up appointment, look at the infected area in two days for the warning signs listed below.

RETURN PROMPTLY or contact your doctor if any of the following occur:

- Increasing area of redness
- Increasing swelling, or pain
- Appearance of pus or drainage
- Fever over 100.5 orally