



Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD): Augmentation Therapy Considerations during Hospitalization. Guidance for the Healthcare Provider.

Intro:

When a patient with AATD receiving outpatient augmentation therapy is admitted to the hospital, it is advisable to continue their augmentation therapy throughout their hospitalization, especially if the admission is related to a pulmonary issue.

Rationale:

Pulmonary exacerbations and lung infections in patients with AATD often lead to decrements in pulmonary function from which a patient may never fully recover. Repeated episodes, especially those severe enough to require hospitalization, are thought to be the major driver of long-term accelerated decline in lung function in AATD. Augmentation therapy is often stopped during hospitalization because healthcare providers do not attempt to continue it even though this therapy may help prevent or minimize this lung injury.

Issues:

- 1) Most hospital pharmacies do not stock augmentation therapy and are hesitant to allow patients to bring medication, especially intravenous medication, from home.
- 2) Most hospital-based nursing is unfamiliar with administration of augmentation therapy.
- 3) Most hospital pharmacies are unfamiliar with dispensing augmentation therapy.
- 4) Issues may arise regarding billing for such services.
- 5) Some patients receive augmentation vials shipped to home, while others receive these from infusion center pharmacies. Knowing if your patient has available drug at home informs decisions.

Suggestions:

- 1) Write an order to continue augmentation at the same interval and dose as the patient takes at home.
- 2) Speak with the pharmacy about allowing the patient to bring augmentation therapy vials from home. Some pharmacies may require a waiver of liability form to be signed by the patient or their legal representative before they consider allowing this. These waiver forms are available at many hospital systems and a sample is available here: <https://www.alphanet.org/AlphaNet/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Sample-Waiver-Liability-Form.pdf>. Note that these processes are best established before they are needed.
- 3) Discuss the administration of this drug with the nursing team responsible for the patient.
- 4) Consider speaking with the augmentation drug provider (manufacturer or specialty pharmacy) about the possibility of emergency shipment of augmentation therapy product to the hospital pharmacy. This particularly applies to any patient that infuses at an infusion center, since these patients do not have drug at home to bring for infusion.