

Information sheet for:
Community Pharmacy Service for the Urgent Supply of
Palliative Care Drugs
(for use by Health Care Professionals ONLY not to be shared with
public)

Drug	Unit	Minimum Stock
Cyclizine injection 50mg/ml	1ml ampoule	20
Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate Injection 3.3mg/ml	1ml ampoule	10
Diamorphine Powder for Injection 5mg (Leeds pharmacies only)	5mg ampoule	10*
Diamorphine Powder for Injection 10mg (Leeds pharmacies only)	10mg ampoule	10*
Diamorphine Powder for Injection 30mg (Leeds pharmacies only)	30mg ampoule	10*
Furosemide injection 50mg/5ml	5ml ampoule	10
Glycopyrronium 200micrograms/ml	3ml ampoule	9
Haloperidol Injection 5mg/ml	1ml ampoule	20
Hyoscine Butylbromide 20mg/ml	1ml ampoule	30
Ketorolac Trometamol 30mg/ml	1ml ampoule	10
Levomepromazine Injection 25mg/ml	1ml ampoule	10
Lorazepam 1mg Tablet (Tablets need to dissolve in the mouth – Genus brand available)	28 tablets	28
Metoclopramide Injection 5mg/ml	2ml ampoule	20
Midazolam Injection 5mg/ml	2ml ampoule	30
Morphine Sulphate Injection 10mg/ml	1ml ampoule	30
Morphine Sulphate Injection 30mg/ml	1ml ampoule	10*
Morphine Sulphate oral Soln 10mg/5ml	100ml bottle	100ml
Morphine Sulphate oral Soln 20mg/ml	30ml bottle	30ml
Oxycodone Injection 10mg/ml	1ml ampoule	20
Oxycodone Injection 10mg/ml	2ml ampoule	20
Oxycodone oral solution conc 10mg/ml	120ml	120ml
Oxycodone oral solution 5mg/5ml	250ml	250ml
Sodium Chloride 0.9% of injection	10ml ampoule	20
Water for Injection	10ml ampoule	30

*The use of morphine or diamorphine as first line subcutaneous opioid varies by locality and the stocks kept should reflect the use within the local area surrounding the community pharmacy:

Calderdale – 1st line Morphine
Kirklees – 1st line Morphine
Wakefield – 1st line Morphine
Bradford and Craven – 1st line Morphine

Leeds – Morphine and Diamorphine used

Top tips for Prescribers:

- This service is to support the URGENT supply of palliative care drugs i.e. medication is required before the next scheduled order delivery to the community pharmacy. Most community pharmacies have twice daily delivery Monday to Friday (and if they are open on a Saturday then a Saturday morning delivery). Depending on opening hours any medication ordered on a Saturday will usually arrive on a Monday morning and any medication ordered on a Sunday will usually arrive on a Monday afternoon.
- If a prescription is not urgent make sure carers are aware of this and that it can be left with the patient's usual pharmacy to be ordered.
- Where possible use the patient's usual pharmacy, they are more likely to have appropriate medication in stock if they are aware of an ongoing need.
- Write one item per prescription, this means that if necessary items can be obtained from a variety of pharmacies rather than having to find one pharmacy with all the items in stock. Also consider writing two prescriptions for the same item if the quantities required urgently are greater than those on the list of drugs.
- Phone the pharmacy at the point of prescribing. This allows current stock levels to be shared and provides the opportunity, if appropriate, for an alternative to be prescribed e.g. prescribing a different strength (not dose).
- Ensure that all Controlled drugs (CD) prescription writing requirements are met. Prescriptions for Schedule 2 & 3 CD's must contain: the dose, the form, the strength and the total quantity required. The total quantity must also be written in WORDS and FIGURES.
- For each prescription item try to indicate the use over 24hours as this may allow the community pharmacy to meet the initial need with the medication they have in stock and order in further supplies to fill the rest of the order.
- Make sure that the contact number on the FP10 prescription is the most appropriate phone number to contact you on if there are any problems with the prescription. Consider handwriting a more appropriate number on the prescription if necessary.
- Try to plan your day so that you see patients who are likely to need a large increase in their medication as early as possible in the day.
- When writing prescriptions order enough medication to cover weekends and Bank Holidays try and ensure these prescriptions are with the pharmacy one full working day in advance of the Bank Holiday so they can order the medication.

Procedure for obtaining medication.

- Prescriber contacts patient's usual pharmacy to see if they have medication available and that there are no supply issues with the medication before writing the prescription.
- If patient's usual pharmacy does not have the medication the prescriber contacts the pharmacy on the list that is most convenient for the patient's representative to access.
- If the initial pharmacy on list does not have medication, it is then their responsibility to contact other local pharmacies on the list to source the medication. The pharmacist must complete an entry on PharmOutcomes for the item(s) they are unable to supply.
- The prescriber leaves their contact details and the contact details of the patient's representative with the pharmacy.
- Once the medication has been sourced, the pharmacy staff contact the patient's representative to let them know where to collect the medication from.
- If none of the pharmacies on the list have the medication, then the original pharmacist contacts the prescriber to further discuss issues/alternatives available.
- If a product is unable to be sourced by the pharmacies providing the service **and** there is no reasonable alternative available **and** the need is urgent then the prescriber contacts the local hospital pharmacy to see if they can dispense the item(s) as a "duty of care".

Palliative Care Medicine Providers

Health and care professionals can access [NHS Service Finder](https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-service-finder), <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-service-finder> to locate a community pharmacy currently open who routinely holds palliative and end of life critical medicines. The search is not limited to West Yorkshire boundaries.

The search will return both pharmacies who are commissioned to provide NHS Palliative Care Medicine Service and pharmacies who have declared under the Pharmacy Quality Scheme that they routinely hold the nationally defined 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines.

How to provide feedback on the service:

Community Pharmacists providing the service: via PharmOutcomes

Other health care professionals email: wycib.primarycare@nhs.net