

Anticipatory (Just in Case) Medications

What are JIC Medications?

These are injectable medicines prescribed **for use by health professionals only**. They are used if a person is unable to swallow their oral medicine (e.g. persistent vomiting) or when someone is too drowsy to safely take their oral medicines.



How do I access these medicines?

These medicines are usually supplied in advance of the time the person may need them. This is to avoid delays if these are needed at weekends or overnight. They may be supplied on discharge from hospital or via GP or specialist nurse prescription.

How do I store these medicines?

They should be stored in a dry, safe, dry, cool place out of reach of children until they are needed.

What medicines are prescribed?

The pack will usually contain the following drugs:

- **Opioid (e.g. Morphine or Oxycodone).** This is used to help treat pain or breathlessness. The person may already be taking this as a tablet, capsule or liquid.
- **Midazolam.** This is used to help with anxiety or breathlessness. It can also be used if the person has a seizure (fit) and there is a health professional present to administer it
- **Levomepromazine or Haloperidol).** This is used to help with nausea (feeling sick) or if the person is feeling agitated.
- **Hyoscine Butylbromide or Glycopyrronium.** This can be used to dry up excessive secretions or be used to help with colic (cramping abdominal pain).

How are the drugs given?

They are administered by a health professional. **WE DO NOT** expect any family members to administer these drugs. They will given by injection under the skin or by a needleless catheter which is left in place under the skin. If regular injections have been needed. The same medications can be used in a syringe pump which delivers a continuous flow of medication through a thin tube and needleless cannula which is changed every 24 hours.

What happens if these drugs are no longer needed?

These drugs should be returned to your local pharmacy. There is legislation regarding appropriate disposal of controlled drugs and the pharmacist will count the drugs returned and may ask you to sign.

Where do I return any paperwork?

Any documentation used by staff in the home (drug charts, stock counts etc.) are the property of the health organisation and are part of their patient record system. Please return these to either the Hospice or District Nurse as we have to include these on the patient's electronic health record.

With Thanks To Thames Hospice for allowing us to adapt their leaflet

