

Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Service Briefing

All pharmacies stock some drugs that may be required for palliative care and can order drugs in for either same day or next day delivery. However, to ensure that specific drugs are available at short notice, fifteen pharmacies across the NHS Dorset and the NHS Bournemouth and Poole area are commissioned to maintain stock of a set list of drugs that may be required for palliative care. Eight of these pharmacies are open for 100 hours per week giving access to a range of medicines used in palliative care during the evenings and at weekends.

The list of the medicines stocked by each pharmacy providing the service is as follows:

Drug	Form	Quantity
Cyclizine 50mg/ml	Injection	10 x 1ml
Dexamethasone 3.8mg/ml	Injection	10 x 1ml
Dexamethasone 2mg	Tablets	50
Diamorphine 10mg	Injection	5
Diamorphine 30mg	Injection	15
Diazepam 5mg/ml	Injection	10 x 2ml
Diazepam 10mg	Rectal Tubes	5
Diclofenac 100mg	Suppositories	10
Fentanyl 25mcg	Patches	1 x 5
Glycopyrronium bromide 200mcg/ml	injection	3 x 3ml
Haloperidol 5mg/ml	Injection	5 x 1ml
Hyoscine butylbromide 20mg/ml	Injection	10 x 1ml
Hyoscine hydrobromide 400mcg/ml	Injection	10 x 1ml
Levomepromazine 25mg	Tablets	84
Levomepromazine 25mg/ml	Injection	10 x 1ml
Metoclopramide 5mg/ml	Injection	10 x 2ml
Midazolam 5mg/ml	Injection	10 x 2ml
Morphine sulphate 10mg/ml	Injection	10 x 2ml
Morphine sulphate 30mg/ml	Injection	10 x 1ml
Morphine sulphate (Oramorph) 10mg/5ml	Oral Solution	5 x 100ml
Oxycodone 10mg/ml	Injection	10 x 1ml
Sodium chloride 0.9%	Injection	10 x 10ml
Water for Injection	Injection	10 x 10ml

This list is agreed between the CCG and local palliative care specialists and updated as necessary.

The following pharmacies are currently providing the palliative care service:

Pharmacy name and address	Phone Number	100 hour pharmacy	Locality
Asda Pharmacy St Pauls Road, Bournemouth, BH8 8DL	01202 298900	Yes	Bournemouth East
Castle Lane Pharmacy 482 Castle Lane West Bournemouth, BH8 9UD	01202 772110	Yes	Bournemouth West
Boots The Chemist 3-5 West Street, Bridport, DT6 3QJ	01308 422475		Bridport
Tesco Instore Pharmacy Weymouth Ave, Dorchester, DT1 2RY	01305 365847	Yes	Dorchester
Market Pharmacy Ltd, Unit 1, Brewery Square 5 Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 1QR	01305 264193		Dorchester
Ferndown Pharmacy 487 Ringwood Road, Ferndown, BH22 9AG	01202 892666	Yes	East Dorset
Lloyds Pharmacy 23 Station Road, Verwood, BH31 7PY	01202 822364		East Dorset
Boots Pharmacy 10-14 Salisbury Street, Blandford, DT11 7AR	01258 452824		North Dorset
Lloyds Pharmacy Hawkesdene Lane, Shaftesbury, SP7 8DH	01747 852086		North Dorset
Boots The Chemist, Unit 7, The Peel Centre Sherborne Road, Yeovil, BA21 5BT	01935 434621	Yes	North Dorset
Tesco Extra Pharmacy Yarrow Road, Mannings Heath Poole, BH12 4NX	01202 457447 or 01202 367447	Yes	Parkstone
Asda Pharmacy West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1JQ	01202 207000	Yes	Poole Central
Boots The Chemist 1-3 Station Road, Swanage, BH19 1AB	01929 422096		Purbeck
Your Local Boots Pharmacy 4 North St, Wareham, BH20 4AF	01929 552737		Purbeck
Asda Instore Pharmacy Newstead Road, Weymouth, DT4 8JQ	01305 207010	Yes	Weymouth & Portland

Top tips for pharmacies providing the palliative care service:

- Please keep this briefing and list of palliative care pharmacies/drugs in your signposting pack so it is readily available for all pharmacists including locums.
- If prescriptions are presented for drugs on the palliative care list and you are only able to make a part supply, please be sure that the supply you give is sufficient for setting up a syringe driver **and** that if you are going to owe a balance that it will be available in time for the next dose to be set up. Please also ensure that the person collecting the drugs is aware that it is a part supply.
- If for any reason you cannot dispense a palliative care prescription, please **signpost effectively** and phone the pharmacy to which you are signposting to check whether they have sufficient stock levels to fill the prescription, or as a minimum, to supply enough to start the syringe driver and order in more stock.
- If you get a prescription at the beginning of a weekend for drugs being used for palliative care and you have not got sufficient stock to fill the prescription, please make sure that what you are able to supply will suffice until you are able to order the balance. If not, please try and find another pharmacy that can make an adequate supply to last the entire weekend.

Top tips for prescribers issuing prescriptions for palliative care patients:

- **Think ahead.** It is recognised good practice to prescribe drugs for symptom control in palliative care in **advance** so that patients and health care professionals have the appropriate medications to hand should a patient deteriorate unexpectedly.
- Ensure there are no errors on the prescription and that the script meets all the normal legal requirements for controlled drugs. Prescriptions missing such information are not legal, and cannot be dispensed – getting an amendment or new script causes delays to patient care.
- Phone ahead to the pharmacy to check whether they have in stock the strengths you are planning to prescribe.
- If diamorphine is out of stock in the local area and the patient requires palliative medicines urgently, look in the front of the BNF to see how the diamorphine dose can be converted to morphine (and vice versa).
- Consider putting the different items required on separate prescriptions to minimise any problems that do occur. For example, a pharmacy can't give you the script back if they dispense the diamorphine but don't have the midazolam. Separate scripts allows the carer or nurse to obtain the stock from different sources should this be necessary.

What about waste?

Quantities prescribed in anticipation and for continuation of syringe drivers where the patient is palliative, should be based on anticipated clinical need, be of sufficient quantity to address current pain needs and the potential for deterioration and reasonable in terms of safety and storage capacity.

Where necessary it would be reasonable to prescribe for shorter durations, but keep a prescription in reserve to top up. Sufficient quantities should be prescribed to avoid the risk of running out of medicines and the patient dying in pain or having to have an emergency admission to hospital. **Where waste occurs because of good planning, it is a relatively small price to pay.**