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# 'Just in Case' Bag

(The Orange Bag)

Information for patients and carers



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The 'Just in Case' bag is kept in your home **just in case** you need it one day. Inside are medicines which may be helpful in treating symptoms that can sometimes happen as people become more ill – such as pain, anxiety or nausea and vomiting.

The bag has injections that a nurse or doctor can give to help relieve these symptoms.

## **Only a doctor or community nurse needs to open the bag to give the medicine.**

These symptoms can be distressing if they occur in the night or at weekends when your local family doctor (GP) practice or community pharmacy are closed. Waiting for a doctor to come and write a prescription and then trying to find a pharmacy open can lead to further delays and distress in an already difficult situation.

If the medicines are needed, the bag has enough to last until more can be given to you by your GP.

This means that you and your carer know that you won't have to worry about trying to get hold of medicines if you need them outside normal working hours.

The medicines in the bag have been prescribed for you and should not be given to anyone else. The bag should be stored in a safe place which is cool and out of direct sunlight. Let your community nurse know where you are keeping the bag so they are able to find it if needed.

The expiry date is written on the outside of the bag. Please contact the pharmacy who gave you the bag or your GP practice before the bag is due to go out of date. They will arrange a new supply of medicines, if needed.

If the 'Just in Case' bag is no longer needed, please return it to your local community pharmacy who will dispose of the contents safely. It must not be disposed of in household waste.

If you have any questions about your 'Just in Case' bag, please ask your GP, Community Nurse or Pharmacist.

**Remember to keep the bag in a safe place.**

**All medicines should be stored out of sight and reach of children.**

**Be aware of the expiry date of the bag.**

