**Palliative Care Drugs**

**Key Points**

**GPs**

For some medications or formulations used in palliative care, amnoule size and strength can be specific due to their volume, risk of precipitation and syringe pump compatibility. Please prescribe exactly from the palliative care drugs list on this leaflet.

To comply with legal requirements, ensure that a dose and directions are written/specified on the prescription. If medication is urgently required, please communicate this on the prescription or by phoning the pharmacy.

**District Nurses**

If you are collecting a prescription from the GP surgery, check it is the medication, strength and ampoule size required and if it is a CD, that it is written property. If urgent, advise the pharmacy team.

**Pharmacists**

Wherever possible, establish the urgency of the prescription when it is handed in and appropriately prioritise dispensing of palliative care medication.

If the medication strength or ampoule size prescribed is not on the list, contact the prescriber to discuss.

Confirm recent opioid dose, especially if the prescription is for >30mg of morphine or equivalent and you have no PMR history for the patient. Check that the dose increase is safe.

For specialist palliative care pharmacy advice, please contact any of the following:

- Susan Addie – Mob: 07880 786 659
- Carolyn Mackay – Mob: 07775 012 560
- Elayne Harris – Mob: 07876 478140
- Alastair Haggarty – Mob: 07855 465 019
- Neil Gemmell – Mob: 07812 543 293

For more information, please visit: www.palliativecareggc.org.uk

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**Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network**

Supporting safe, effective and efficient provision of palliative care

Although in most circumstances, the patient’s usual community pharmacist should be the first port of call, if the medication is not available within a reasonable time the nearest network pharmacy should be contacted by the first community pharmacist, the patient’s GP or District Nurse, to arrange prompt supply.

Within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area, there are 70 community pharmacies participating in the above network to provide additional palliative care support to patients. The network pharmacies service includes:

- Retaining a stock of specialised palliative care medicine.
- Some of the medication strengths and formulations are specific due to the volume limitations in syringe pumps and for bolus subcutaneous injections.
- Advice and support on palliative care medications to other pharmacists, GPs and District Nurses.
- A courier service for the transport of urgent palliative care prescriptions and medications.

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**Out-of-hours**

When a palliative care prescription is required to be dispensed urgently out-of-hours (and the medicine is not available in GP OOH centre), contact the NHS GG&C out-of-hours service to access a network pharmacist.

Helpdesk number 0141 636 8412

(This number is for use by healthcare professionals only, and must not be given to patients or carers.)

For more information, please visit: www.palliativecareggc.org.uk

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**Information for GPs, District Nurses and Community Pharmacists – Confidential**

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