

## Ketamine Administration District Nurse information leaflet

### Prescribing

When used to help provide pain relief in palliative care, ketamine is usually administered orally, but it can also be administered buccally (for breakthrough pain) and by continuous subcutaneous infusion (for background analgesia).

If prescribed subcutaneously best practice dictates ketamine use should be prescribed and documented on the controlled drug prescription chart.

### Supply

Ketamine (Ketalar injection) is available in single use vials – 10mg/mL (20ml vial), 50mg/mL (10ml vial) and 100mg/mL (10ml vial). 50mg/mL vials are normally used.

Ketamine oral solution (usually 50mg/5mls) which can be used for both oral and buccal administration.

### Preparation of subcutaneous infusion

- Dilute with sodium chloride 0.9% to a final length of 48mm in a 10, 20 or 30ml Luer lock syringe.
- Check syringe driver daily for turbidity.
- Change the infusion site daily to prevent skin necrosis. Dexamethasone 0.5mg - 1mg may be added to the infusion if irritation is a problem.
- Do not mix with other medication except the following:
  - dexamethasone (low dose),
  - diamorphine,
  - haloperidol,
  - metoclopramide,
  - midazolam and
  - levomepromazine (methotrimeprazine).

**Once the vials have been opened they must be discarded (single use only).**

### Oral and Buccal administration of prepared oral solutions

The standard concentration is 50mg/5mls, but it comes available in any strength from 10-500mg/5mls, and with a range of flavours (lemon, blackcurrant, raspberry, cherry, peppermint).

For buccal administration deliver the solution in a syringe to the space between the teeth and cheek.

### Further advice available from specialist palliative care team involved. Tel No .....

Other sources of advice

Northern Centre for Cancer Treatment Palliative Care Team	0191 256 3615
Freeman Hospital Palliative Care Team	0191 213 7221
Royal Victoria Infirmary Palliative Care Team	0191 282 4019
Marie Curie Hospice Newcastle	0191 219 1000
St Oswald's Hospice	0191 285 0063
Newcastle Community Palliative Care Team	0191 226 1315
North Tyneside Palliative Care Team (Hospital and Community)	0191 220 5955
Gateshead Palliative Care Team	0191 445 6403

**Outside of Working Hours: Palliative Care Advice Line on 0191 273 3435**