

# Access to Palliative Care Drugs and Advice through Lothian Primary Care NHS Trust Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network

## **Information for GPs, community pharmacists and district nurses**

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Lothian Primary Care NHS Trust

## **CONTENTS**

1. Summary
2. Aims of the Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network
3. Comments regarding the Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network
4. List of Network Community Pharmacies stocking Palliative Care Drugs
5. List of Palliative Care Drugs to be stocked by Community Pharmacy
6. Procedure for access to network Pharmacies  
Within normal working hours  
Outwith normal working hours
7. Handwriting requirements for Controlled Drug Prescriptions

## 1. Summary

Six community pharmacists have been recruited throughout Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian to form a Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network. This initiative is in response to anecdotal reports of problems in obtaining palliative care drugs for patients being cared for at home, particularly outwith normal working hours. The scheme follows the framework described in the Scottish Executive Circular MEL (1999) 78 for a Community Pharmacy Model Scheme for Palliative Care and builds on the pilot conducted through one pharmacy in North West Edinburgh locality in 1999.

Funding has been secured for the scheme for one year in the first instance during which time the service will be evaluated.

The pharmacies participating in the scheme will continually stock a range of palliative care drugs. This list has been agreed by members of the working group as well as GP's, District Nurses, Palliative Medicine Consultants, Palliative Care Pharmacists and the Home Care Sisters at St Columba's Hospice and Marie Curie Centre, Fairmile.

Patients or their carers will continue to use the usual community pharmacy to obtain prescriptions. The community pharmacies participating in the scheme will only be accessed in the following situations:

- During normal working hours, when the patient's usual community pharmacy cannot supply the palliative care drug(s) within the timescale required
- Outwith normal working hours when the patient requires the palliative care drug(s) urgently

## 2. Aims of the Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network

The Scheme will: Allow timely access to palliative care drugs for patients being cared for at home

- Provide information regarding palliative care drugs to patients, carers and other health care professionals including compatibility
- Support and maintain the formation of a network of "palliative care" community pharmacies in Lothian Primary Care Trust and liaise with other health care professionals on palliative care issues.

## 3. Comments regarding the Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network

Any comments or problems regarding the scheme should be directed to Pat Murray, Chief Pharmacist, Lothian Primary Care NHS Trust, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Morningside Terrace, Edinburgh (Telephone 0131 537 6575)

Lothian PCT pharmacy network

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#### 4. List of Community pharmacies stocking palliative care drugs

Community pharmacy: Tel no:	<b>Boots the Chemist, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh</b> 0131- 225 6757	
Opening hours:	Monday to Friday	8am – 9pm
	Saturday	8am – 6pm
	Sunday	10.30am – 4.30pm
Community pharmacy: Tel no:	<b>Nicholson Chemist, Featherhall Avenue, Edinburgh</b> 0131- 334 4694	
Opening hours:	Monday to Friday	9am – 6pm
	Saturday	9am – 5pm
Community pharmacy: Tel no:	<b>John A Smith, Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh</b> 0131- 661 2578	
Opening hours:	Monday to Friday	9am – 6pm
	Saturday	9am – 1pm
Community pharmacy: Tel no:	<b>Taylor Pharmacy, Gracemount Drive, Edinburgh</b> 0131- 664 2249	
Opening hours:	Monday to Saturday	9am – 5.30pm
Community pharmacy: Tel no:	<b>W J Jack Chemists Ltd, Clerk Street, Loanhead</b> 0131- 440 0511	
Opening hours:	Monday to Saturday	8.45am – 6.30pm
	Sunday	11am – 4pm
Community pharmacy: Tel no:	<b>Moss Chemist, High Street, Haddington</b> 01620 822361	
Opening hours:	Monday to Saturday	9am – 5.30pm

## 5. List of Palliative care Drugs to be stocked by Community Pharmacy

Drug	Strength and Form	Quantity
Cyclizine	50mg/ml injection	3 x 5
Dexamethasone	2mg tablets	1 x 50
Dexamethasone	8mg/2ml	1 x 5
Diamorphine	10mg injection	2 x 5
Diamorphine	30mg injection	2 x 5
Diamorphine	100mg injection	2 x 5
Diamorphine	500mg injection	1 x 5
Diazepam Rectal tubes (Stesolid)	10mg	1 x 5
Fentanyl TTS	25 micrograms/hour	1 x 5
Fentanyl TTS	100 micrograms/hour	1 x 5
Haloperidol	5mg/1ml injection	1 x 5
Hyoscine Hydrobromide	400 microgram/ml injection	1 x 10
Hyoscine Butylbromide (Buscopan)	20mg/ml injection	1 x 10
Methotrimeprazine (Levomepromazine)	25mg/ml injection	1 x 10
Methotrimeprazine (Levinan <sup>TM</sup> )	6mg tablets	60
Metoclopramide	10mg/2ml	1 x 10
Midazolam	10mg/2ml injection	2 x 10
Morphine sulphate CR (MST)	30mg sachet	1 x 30
Morphine sulphate CR (MST)	100mg sachet	1 x 30
Morphine sulphate (Oramorph)	10mg/5ml	1 x 100ml
Morphine sulphate concentrate (Oramorph)	20mg/ml liquid	1 x 120ml
Phenobarbitone *	200mg/ml injection	5 ampoules
Sodium chloride 0.9%	10ml injection	2 x 10
Sodium chloride 0.9% Infusion	500ml	20
Sodium chloride 0.9% Infusion	1L	10
Water for injection	10ml injection	2 x 10

\* supply on recommendation of Palliative Medicine Consultant only

Lothian PCT pharmacy network

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## 6. Procedure for access to Network Pharmacies

### (a) Within normal working hours

1. The GP or community pharmacist contacts the pharmacist at one of the above pharmacies and informs the pharmacist that they will be receiving a prescription for a drug(s) from the palliative care list.
2. Where possible the patient's relative / carer will take the prescription to the pharmacy and pick up the drugs. When this is not possible alternative arrangements will be made to deliver the prescription to the pharmacy and deliver the drugs to the patient. A telephone order or faxed prescription is not acceptable.
3. The use of taxis may be required to uplift the prescription and deliver the drugs to the patient. A signature indicating receipt of the drugs will be required on the transport slip.
4. The pharmacist will provide advice to the patient / carer when appropriate regarding the drugs supplied.
5. The pharmacist will liaise with the patient's usual community pharmacist where possible to provide the following information:
  - drugs supplied
  - any ongoing problems
  - advice given
  - likely future requirements.

### (b) Outwith normal working hours

1. The GP contacts their Out-of Hours Co-op (or equivalent where alternative arrangements exist) to obtain details of the Radiopage number of the oncall network pharmacist. A mobile phone number is also available as a back-up service. EMSS&E, EVES, ELMERS, LEDS, NEEDS, PARES, SWELDOC and HEALTHCALL all have these contact details and will be informed of any changes / updates.
2. The GP contacts the oncall network pharmacist via the radiopage number and informs the pharmacist that a prescription is required for a drug(s) from the palliative care list.
3. Appropriate arrangements are made for the delivery of the prescription(s) to the pharmacy. Where possible the patient's relative / carer will take the prescription to the pharmacy and pick up the drugs. When this is not possible alternative arrangements will be made to deliver the prescription to the pharmacy and deliver the drugs to the patient as agreed between doctor and pharmacist.  
**A telephone order or faxed prescription is not acceptable.**
4. The use of taxis may be required to uplift the prescription and deliver the drugs to the patient. These can be authorised by the pharmacist. A signature indicating receipt of the drugs will be required on the transport slip.
5. The pharmacist will provide advice to the patient / carer when appropriate regarding the drugs supplied
6. The pharmacist will liaise with the patient's usual community pharmacist where possible during the next working day to provide the following information:
  - drugs supplied
  - any ongoing problems
  - advice given
  - likely future requirements

## 7. Handwriting requirements for Controlled Drug Prescriptions

*The prescription must include in the prescriber's own handwriting*

1. The name and address of the patient.
2. In the case of the preparation, the form (eg MST Continus suspension) and where appropriate the strength of the preparation (eg MST Continus suspension 30mg)
3. The total quantity of the preparation, or the number of dose units, in both words and figures.
4. The dose (NB "as directed" does *not* constitute a dose and so is not acceptable).
5. The preparation must be signed and dated by the prescriber and state the prescriber's address.
6. When the prescription is to be dispensed out of hours the word "**URGENT**" should be added by the prescriber.

FORM GP10		NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND)	
Name	DONALD DUCK		
Address	6 PUDDLE LANE		
Age if under 12 yrs.	ANYTOWN		
Postcode	XB19 142		
Yrs / Mths			
No. of Days Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	CHI No.	
DIAMORPHINE 30mg INJECTION			
Supply: 5 (FIVE) Ampoules			
60mg daily by subcutaneous infusion over 24 hours			
SP			
Pack size Numbers only			
Pack size Numbers only			
Pack size Numbers only			
Signature of Doctor		Date	
[Signature]		1.7.01	
S40924			
Dr. ED RUSSELL-SMITH			
CRAIGSHILL HEALTH CENTRE			
CRAIGSHILL ROAD			
LIVINGSTON			
WEST LoTHIAN, EH54 5DY			
Please read notes overleaf and complete relevant parts BEFORE going to a pharmacy.			
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Lothian PCT pharmacy network

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# West Lothian Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Supply Network.

## Summary.

Six community pharmacists have been recruited throughout West Lothian to form a Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Networks

This initiative is in response to anecdotal reports of problems in obtaining palliative care drugs for patients being cared for at home, particularly out of normal working hours. The scheme follows the framework described in the Scottish Executive Circular MEL (1999) 78 for a Community Pharmacy model scheme for Palliative Care. Funding has been secured for the scheme for one year in the first instance during which time the service will be evaluated.

The pharmacies participating in the scheme will continually stock a range of palliative care drugs.

Westdoc will also hold a range of palliative care drugs. Community Palliative Specialists GPs and Pharmacists have agreed these lists.

Patients or their carers will continue to use the usual community pharmacy to obtain prescriptions

The community pharmacies participating in the scheme will **only** be accessed in the following situations:

- During normal working hours, when the patient's usual community pharmacy cannot supply the palliative care drug(s) within the timescale required.
- Outwith normal working hours, when the patient requires palliative care drug(s) urgently and Westdoc supplies have been exhausted.

## Aims of the West Lothian Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network

- To allow timely access to palliative care drugs for patients being cared for at home
- To provide information regarding palliative care drugs to patients, carers and other health care professionals including compatibility.
- To support and maintain the formation of a network of "palliative care" community pharmacies in West Lothian Healthcare NHS Trust and liaise with other health care professionals on palliative care issues.

## Drugs available on the West Lothian Community Pharmacy Palliative Care List.

Drug	Strength and form	Quantity
Cyclizine	50mg/ml injection	1 x 5
Dexamethasone	2mg tablets	1 x 50
Dexamethasone	8mg/2ml injection	1 x 5
Diamorphine	10mg injection	1 x 5
Diamorphine	30mg injection	1 x 5
Diamorphine	100mg injection	1 x 5
Diazepam Rectal tubes (Stesoid)	10mg	1 x 5
Haloperidol	5mg/ml injection	1 x 5
Hyoscine Hydrobromide	400mcg/ml injection	1 x 10
Hyoscine Butylbromide (Buscopan)	20mg/ml injection	1 x 10
Methotrimeprazine (levomepromazine)	25mg/ml injection	1 x 10
Metoclopramide	10mg/2ml injection	1 x 10
Midazolam	10mg/2ml injection	1 x 10
Morphine sulphate (Oramorph)	10mg/5ml liquid	2 x 100ml
Morphine sulphate concentrate (Oramorph)	20mg/ml liquid	2 x 30ml
Sodium chloride for injection	10ml	1 x 10
Water for injection	10ml	1 x 10

## List of West Lothian Community Pharmacies stocking palliative care drugs.

### **Safeway Pharmacy**, Almondvale Centre, Livingston.

Open: Mon to Fri: 8am – 10pm

Saturday: 8am – 8pm

Sunday: 9am – 8pm

**Tel: 01506 462003**

### **Glendale Chemist**, Ochilview Square, Armadale.

Open: Mon to Fri: 9am – 5.45pm (Lunch 1-2pm)

Wednesday: 9am – 1pm

Saturday: 9am – 1pm

**Tel: 01501 730748**

### **Lindsay & Gilmour**, Main Street, West Calder.

Open: Mon to Fri: 9am – 6pm

Saturday: 9am – 5pm

**Tel: 01506 871232**

### **Boots the Chemist**, High Street, Linlithgow.

Open: Mon to Sat: 8.30am – 5.30pm

**Tel: 01506 846372**

### **MacBride Pharmacy**, Main Street, West Calder.

Open: Mon to Fri: 8.45am – 6pm

Saturday: 8.45 – 5pm

**Tel: 01506 871164**

### **Boots the Chemist**, George Street, Bathgate.

Open: Mon to Sat: 8.45am – 5.30pm

**Tel: 01506 652682**

## Procedure for access to West Lothian Network Pharmacies

### (a) Within normal working hours:

(i) The GP or community pharmacist will contact the pharmacist at one of the above pharmacies and inform the pharmacist that they will be receiving a prescription for a drug from the palliative care list.

(ii) Where possible the patient's relative/carer will take the prescription to the pharmacy and pick up the drugs.

**Telephone orders or faxed prescriptions are not acceptable.**

(iii) The pharmacist will provide advice to the patient/carer when appropriate regarding the drugs supplied.

(iv) After the supply is made, the pharmacist will liaise with the patient's usual community pharmacist where possible to provide the following information:

- ◆ Drugs supplied
- ◆ Any ongoing problems
- ◆ Advice given
- ◆ Likely future requirements.

### (b) Outwith normal working hours:

(i) WESTDOC will contact a pharmacist from the list of Palliative Care Supply Pharmacists. (As a last resort or for medicines not on the Palliative Care Medicine List, the oncall pharmacist can be contacted via the switchboard at St John's Hospital).

(ii) WESTDOC will arrange for a prescription to be written and endorsed "**Urgent**".

**Telephone orders or faxed prescriptions are not acceptable.**

(iii) An appropriate arrangement will be negotiated with the doctor and pharmacist. (eg. It may be appropriate for delivery to Westdoc or for the pharmacist to be met at the pharmacy, or the patient's home). The prescription must be handed to the pharmacist before the supply of drugs is made.

(iv) The pharmacist will provide advice where appropriate regarding the drugs supplied and will liaise with the patient's usual community pharmacy where possible the next working day.

## Handwriting requirements for Controlled Drug Prescriptions.

The prescription must include in the prescriber's own handwriting:

1. The name and address of the patient.
2. In the case of the preparation, the form and the strength of the preparation (eg MST Continus tablets 30mg).
3. The total quantity of the preparation, or the number of doses, in **both** words and figures.
4. The dose (NB "as directed" does not constitute a dose and is not acceptable).
5. The prescription must be signed and dated by the prescriber, and state the prescriber's address.
6. When the prescription is to be dispensed out of hours, the prescriber should add the word "**URGENT**".

Prescription writing see page 6

## Comments regarding the West Lothian Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network.

Any comments or problems regarding the scheme should be directed to:

*Margaret Dolan, Chief Pharmacist,*

West Lothian Healthcare NHS Trust, St John's Hospital, Livingston EH54 6PP Telephone: 01506 419666 ext 2254.

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