

THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUBCUTANEOUS  
DRUGS BY CARERS / PATIENTS

CARERS / PATIENTS LEAFLET

Name of Patient

Name of Carer

This leaflet relates to the Subcutaneous Drug Administration by Carers  
(Adult Palliative Care).

The medication being used is called

Possible side effects are

When might the injection be required?

How often can the injection be repeated?

The Doctors, District Nurses and Specialist Palliative Care Nurses will support you in this task and teach you how it is done. You do not have to give these injections unless you want to and feel comfortable to do so. If at any time you feel you can no longer give them, please let your Doctor, District Nurse or Specialist Palliative Care Nurse know.

### What you will be taught/need to know

1. The nurses will put in an injection line. When you give the injection you will only give the injection into the line, not into the patient's skin.
2. You will be asked to check the injection site before each injection for signs of redness, swelling or leakage. If concerned you must contact your District Nursing team.
3. You will be taught what the injection is for and when to give it.
4. You will be taught how to draw up the required amount of the medicine, as written on the prescription chart, into a syringe and how to give it using the line.
5. You will be taught how to flush the line after giving the medicine with 1 ml of sterile water for injection, to ensure that all of the medicine is given to the patient.
6. You will be taught how to safely dispose of any needles and syringes used.
7. You will need to write and sign your name, giving details of date, time and amount of drug given and how many ampoules are left.
8. You will be advised to only give up to 4 injections in any 24 hour period before seeking further advice and help. **If you feel the medication is not being effective, please contact your District Nursing team.**
9. The patient's regular medication will be reviewed each day to minimise the need for any extra injections.
10. There is a step by step guide included in this leaflet (see next page).

### Important points to remember

If you need advice or help then please contact either:

GP .....

District Nursing Team.....

Palliative Care Nurse (9am – 5pm Mon – Fri)

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Out of Hours .....

We will be happy to help.

If you are unsure about whether to give the injection for any reason please contact any of the above for help and advice. If you need help or advice outside normal working hours contact the evening district nursing service or the On Call GP service.

### Step by Step Guide

1. Check the pink sheet.
2. Check the injection site.
3. Wash hands.
4. Draw up medication.
5. Give injection via line.
6. Flush with 1ml sterile water.
7. Re-check site for redness or leakage.
8. Record the injection given in patient notes.

NB: IF YOU NEED HELP OR ADVICE, CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT NURSING TEAM.