

Pharmacy Appendix to 'Discharge guidance for Patients with Palliative Care needs'

(Red sections only applicable for Rapid Discharges for patients in last days of life)

SCREENING

- Clarify estimated discharge time i.e. same day / next 24 hours
- If discharge planned for the same day, obtain contact details for family / carer from ward staff and confirm delivery address in case, in exceptional circumstances, palliative care courier is required
- Identify the relevant 'Just In Case' medications, modify the medicine and add 'JIC' to the additional instructions box. Annotate required **quantities** for labelling/ dispensing as follows:
 - Anticipatory (JIC) medicines –supply 1 x 10 ampoules of each drug
 - Diluent – usually WFI 10ml ampoules, 1 x 20
 - If on a Continuous Subcutaneous Infusion (CSCI) and/ or using 'as required' medication, quantity supplied should be based on patients use. Supply a minimum of 5 days.
- For drugs in a CSCI check safe doses, compatible combinations and correct diluent prescribed
- If screening the prescription on the ward, supply community kardex to enable timely completion. Document on the IDL if community kardex supplied at this stage.

DISPENSING / ASSEMBLY

- For rapid discharges, if unable to dispense full quantities of any item, send partial supply to ward
 - **Always** supply **some of each** JIC medicine
 - **Document quantity** supplied on discharge prescription
 - **Contact district nurse** to advise of reduced quantities supplied
- When assembling the prescription, **place JIC medicines in a separate orange 'Just in Case Medication' bag**
- A **community kardex** should be supplied along with every palliative care discharge containing subcutaneous medication (e.g. JIC medicines and/ or syringe pump) unless already supplied by screening pharmacist. ['Summary guidance on completion of community palliative care kardex in acute'](#) is available if required.

SUPPLY

- For rapid discharges, advise ward **as soon** as prescription available/complete
 - In exceptional circumstances, where patient already discharged from ward, use palliative care courier
- Use palliative care courier to deliver prescription direct to patient's home as soon as ready
 - Contact family / carer and advise medicines will arrive by courier
 - Arrange courier using details below and record reference number for journey

For Pharmacy Use only – for emergency use only

Palliative Care courier: Eagle couriers

Telephone:

Account number:

Password:

Please contact local dispensing area if courier required