

# Access to Palliative Care Medicines and Advice



through the **Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network**, a part of **NHS Lothian Pharmacy Service**.

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

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## Lothian Palliative Care Network Changes

The Lothian Palliative Care Network is now a long established service and it's important that you familiarise yourself with the location of the network pharmacies in your area. There have been **2 recent changes to the Network**:

- **Broughton Pharmacy**, Broughton Street and **Omnicare Pharmacy**, Queensferry Road have joined the Network
- Barnton pharmacy and Tesco Pharmacy, Broughton Road are no longer participating in the Network

**Community Pharmacists** - When you are unable to dispense an urgent palliative care prescription in the time required to meet the patient's needs, **remember to refer the patients/carers to a network pharmacy**. Please contact the network pharmacy before you refer the patient/carer to ensure they have the particular medicine required in stock. This can save so much time and stress for everyone. Patients and carers should never be sent from pharmacy to pharmacy looking for urgent medicines on the Palliative Care Stock List.

## The Network and its aims

The aims of the Scheme are to:

- Allow timely access to palliative care drugs for patients being cared for at home
- Provide quality information regarding palliative care drugs to patients, carers and other health care professionals.
- Support and maintain a network of "palliative care" community pharmacies in NHS Lothian and liaise with other health care professionals on palliative care issues to ensure ongoing excellence.

## Practice Points

### Lorazepam via Sublingual Route in Palliative Care

Currently there is no licensed sublingual tablet form of lorazepam and this is often the route of choice. In practice, certain brands can be used sublingually off licence. The Genus and PVL brands are suitable for this as data suggests they dissolve. They are also scored, so more practical to use where the dose is 500micrograms (half a 1mg tablet). There is no data available on the dissolution of other brands, leading to the risk of a suboptimal effect.

There is now a 0.5mg tablet available which is not stocked by the Network and is not suitable for sublingual use.

### Levomepromazine 6mg tablets

There is now a licensed Levomepromazine 6mg tablets made by Morningside Healthcare Ltd which is available from all wholesalers. The unlicensed form should no longer be used.

Levomepromazine 6mg tablets are now a 3<sup>rd</sup> line oral choice anti emetic in palliative care and are only prescribed on specialist advice in NHS Lothian therefore usage has fallen. However it is essential that palliative patients still have access to this medicine so to facilitate this **Lloyds Pharmacy at Straiton** will now be the only Palliative Care Network stocking Levomepromazine 6mg tablets

**Your comments on the Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network are welcome.** Please send to Pam Chisholm, Lead Pharmacist, Lothian Palliative Care Network, Pharmacy Department, REH. 0131 537 6994; email [pam.chisholm@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:pam.chisholm@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

## How to access the Network

### a) Within normal working hours

1. The GP or community pharmacist contacts the pharmacist at one of the Network pharmacies and informs the pharmacist that they will be receiving a prescription for a drug(s) from the palliative care list. This will ensure that the medicine is immediately available.
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 network pharmacist will provide advice to the patient/carer when appropriate regarding the drugs supplied. 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

Contact with the on-call Network pharmacist is through the NHS Lothian Hub for out-of-hours medical services and the Evening and Night-time Nursing Services.

Only these sites hold the Network contact details and will be informed of any changes/updates.

The out-of-hours service doctor contacts the on-call network pharmacist via the radio page number and informs the pharmacist that a prescription is required for a drug(s) from the palliative care list. (A mobile phone number is also available as a back-up service only).

1. 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.
2. The pharmacist will provide advice to the patient/carer when appropriate regarding the drugs supplied.
3. 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.

## Where to find the Network Pharmacies



### Lothian Community Palliative Care Network Pan-Lothian Stock List

Drug	Strength and Form	Quantity
Alfentanil	1mg/2ml injection	1x10
Alfentanil intensive care (see footnote 1)	5mg/ml injection	1x10
Cyclizine	50mg/ml injection	2x5
Dexamethasone	2mg tablets	1x50
Dexamethasone	3.3mg/ml injection	2x5
Diamorphine	10mg injection	2x5
Diamorphine	30mg injection	2x5
Diamorphine	100mg injection	1x5
Diazepam	10mg/2.5ml rectal tubes	1x5
Fentanyl (matrix patch)	12micrograms/hour patches	1x5
Fentanyl (matrix patch)	25micrograms/hour patches	1x5
Glycopyrronium	200microgram/ml injection	1x10
Haloperidol	5mg/ml injection	2x5
Hyoscine Butylbromide (Buscopan)	20mg/ml injection	2x10
Levomepromazine	25mg/ml injection	1x10
Levomepromazine (see footnote 2)	6mg tablets	1x28
Metoclopramide	10mg/2ml injection	2x12
Midazolam (see footnote 3)	10mg/2ml injection	2x10
Morphine sulphate	10mg/5ml oral liquid	1x100ml
Morphine sulphate	100mg/5ml oral liquid	1x 120ml
Morphine sulphate	10mg/ml injection	2x10
Morphine sulphate	30mg/ml injection	2x10
Octreotide (see footnote 1 and 4)	1mg/5ml multi-dose vial	1x2
Oxycodone hydrochloride	5mg/5ml oral liquid	1x250ml
Oxycodone hydrochloride	10mg/1ml injection	1x5
Oxycodone hydrochloride	20mg/2ml injection	1x5
Phenobarbital (Phenobarbitone) (see footnote 1)	200mg/ml injection	1x10
Sodium Chloride 0.9%	10ml ampoules	1x20
Sodium Chloride 0.9% (see footnote 1)	500ml infusion	20
Water for injection	10ml injection	2x10

- Only stocked at: Gordon's Chemist**, 1 Gracemount Drive, EH16 6RR, telephone 0131 664 2249  
Open: Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm  
**Lloyds Pharmacy** in Sainsburys, Straiton Mains, Straiton, Midlothian EH20 9PW, telephone 0131 440 4205  
Open: Mon-Fri 8am-10pm, Sat 8am-9pm, Sun 8am-7pm  
**Omnicare Pharmacy**, 6 Main Street, Deans, Livingston, EH54 8DF, telephone 01506 411570. Open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm and Sat 9am-12.30pm  
**Morrisons Pharmacy**, Dedridge Road North, Livingston EH54 6DB, telephone 01506 462003  
Open Mon-Fri 8.30am-8pm and Sat 8am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm
- Only stocked at: **Lloyds Pharmacy** in Sainsbury's, Straiton Mains, Straiton, Midlothian EH20 9PW 0131 440 4205
- The strength of midazolam stocked is 10mg/2ml; other strengths should **not** be used as they are too dilute for subcutaneous administration and use in syringe pumps for palliative care patients.
- Stored in the fridge.

**Note: There are two community pharmacies which supply medicines to the Edinburgh Hospices and they may have stocks of other specialist palliative care medicines. Contact either Hospice to obtain details of the Community Pharmacies.**

## The Palliative Care Network Pharmacies

<b>EDIN South</b>	<b>Lindsay &amp; Gilmour Chemist</b> , 96 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh EH16 4DT Monday to Friday 8.30am-6pm Saturday 9am-1pm	<b>0131 661 2578</b> pharm.CP2550@nhs.scot
	<b>Boots UK Ltd</b> , Unit 1, Edinburgh Fort Retail park, Newcraighall,Edin EH15 3HS Monday to Friday 9am-8.30pm Saturday 9am-6.30pm Sunday 9.30am-6pm	<b>0131 669 4428</b> pharm.CP2396@nhs.scot
	<b>Gordons Chemists</b> , 1 Gracemount Drive, Edinburgh EH16 6RR Monday to Saturday 9am-5.30pm	<b>0131 664 2249</b> pharm.CP2490@nhs.scot
	<b>Newington Pharmacy</b> , 46-50 Clerk Street, Edinburgh EH8 9JB Monday to Friday 8.30am-6.30pm Saturday 9am-6pm	<b>0131 667 2368</b> pharm.CP2495@nhs.scot
	<b>Colinton Mains Pharmacy</b> , 84 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh EH13 9BJ Monday to Friday 9am-6pm (closed lunch 1pm-2pm) Saturday 9am-1pm	<b>0131 441 3388</b> pharm.CP2243@nhs.scot
	<b>Marchmont Pharmacy</b> , 26 Marchmont Road, Edinburgh EH9 1HZ Monday to Friday 8.30am -5.30pm Saturday 9.30am-3.30pm	<b>0131 228 6677</b> pharm.CP2480@nhs.scot
<b>EDIN North</b>	<b>Boots UK Ltd</b> , 46-48 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4SA Monday to Friday 8am-8pm Saturday 9am-6pm Sunday 10.30am-5pm	<b>0131 225 6757</b> pharm.CP2030@nhs.scot
	<b>Rowlands Pharmacy</b> , 5A Featherhall Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 7TG Monday to Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-1pm	<b>0131 334 4694</b> pharm.CP2417@nhs.scot
	<b>Omnicare Pharmacy</b> , 509 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 7QD Monday to Friday 9am- 7pm Saturday 9am-5pm	<b>0131 336 2861</b> pharm.CP2510@nhs.scot
	<b>Broughton Pharmacy</b> , 105 Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH1 3RZ Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm Saturday 9am-1pm	<b>0131 556 1054</b> ci.pharm.cp2564@nhs.scot
	<b>Boots UK Ltd</b> , Unit 22 Ocean Terminal, Ocean Drive, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JJ Monday to Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-6pm Sunday 10am-6pm	<b>0131 554 6834</b> pharm.CP2458@nhs.scot
	<b>Boots UK Ltd</b> , Gyle Shopping Centre, Edinburgh EH12 9JS Mon to Fri 8.30am-8pm Sat 8.30am-7pm Sun 9am-6pm	<b>0131 317 1824</b> pharm.CP2320@nhs.scot
<b>MIDLOTHIAN</b>	<b>Lloyds Pharmacy in Sainsburys</b> , Straiton Mains, Straiton, Midlothian EH20 9PW Monday to Friday 8am-10pm Saturday 8am-9pm Sunday 8am-7pm	<b>0131 440 4205</b> pharm.CP2554@nhs.scot
	<b>Rowlands Pharmacy</b> , 27 John Street, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 8HN Monday to Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-5pm	<b>01968 673 939</b> pharm.CP2447@nhs.scot
<b>EAST LOTHIAN</b>	<b>Boots UK Ltd</b> , 36 High Street, Haddington EH41 3EE Monday to Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-5.30pm	<b>01620 823 349</b> pharm.CP2034@nhs.scot
	<b>Well Pharmacy</b> , 115 High Street, Tranent, East Lothian EH33 1LW Monday to Friday 8.30am-5.30pm Saturday 8.30am-5pm	<b>01875 615453</b> pharm.CP2070@nhs.scot
<b>WEST LOTHIAN</b>	<b>Well Pharmacy</b> , The Fauldhouse Partnership Centre, Lanrigg Rd, Fauldhouse, Bathgate EH47 9JD: Monday to Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-1pm	<b>01501 770143</b> pharm.CP2491@nhs.scot
	<b>Gordons Chemist</b> , 7 North Street, Armadale, West Lothian EH48 3QB Monday to Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-5pm	<b>01501 730748</b> pharm.CP2524@nhs.scot
	<b>Lloyds Pharmacy</b> , 286 High Street, Linlithgow, West Lothian EH49 7ER Monday to Friday 8.30am-6.00pm Saturday 8.30am-5.00pm	<b>01506 670280</b> pharm.CP2431@nhs.scot
	<b>Morrisons Pharmacy</b> , Dedridge Road North, Livingston EH54 6DB Monday to Friday 8.30am- 8pm Saturday 8am -6pm Sunday 10am-6pm	<b>01506 462003</b> pharm.CP2463@nhs.scot
	<b>Omnicare Pharmacy</b> , 6 Main Street, Deans, Livingston EH54 8BE Monday to Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-12.30pm	<b>01506 411570</b> pharm.CP2457@nhs.scot
	<b>Lindsay &amp; Gilmour Chemist</b> , 34-36 Main Street, West Calder EH55 8DR Monday to Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-5pm	<b>01506 871164</b> pharm.CP2436@nhs.scot

Most up to date contact details can be found at <https://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-boards/nhs-lothian/palliative-care/>