

## Buccal Midazolam: Information for Patients and Carers

Midazolam is a fast-acting sedative.

It is commonly used by injection for a number of purposes, including help with muscle spasms, in the control and prevention of fits and to help patients who are agitated or distressed and can't swallow sedative tablets. It can also be absorbed into the blood stream by placing the drug between gums and cheek (buccal route)

It can be an easy and effective way to give relief of distressing symptoms and fits at home without the need for an injection

We have written this information as we may be recommending this medicine to be used for a condition it was not originally designed for; so you may find that there are some differences between this information and the manufacturer's information.

Your doctor or specialist palliative care nurse has suggested that Buccal Midazolam might help in the following situation(s):

**You have been prescribed buccal midazolam for:**

### Remember: Call the Gold Line (01535 292768) for support at anytime

Buccal midazolam is made by 2 different companies and is called Buccolam or Epistatus

#### 1. Buccolam.

This comes in different strengths. For an adult, the most common one is 10mg and has red packaging and a red cap as below:

If you need to use this, you must remove the red cap first.



#### 2. Epistatus

This only comes in one strength (10mg) and looks this:

Before using, you need to unscrew the orange cap.



### How to use:

1. The full amount of solution should be inserted slowly into the space between the gum and the cheek (as shown below).



2. Give approximately half the dose, slowly into one side of the mouth, and then give the remainder slowly into the other side.
3. The dose must not be administered below the tongue since the teeth may clamp shut and break the syringe in the mouth.
4. In some situations, it may be possible to administer a second dose if symptoms persist after the first dose, always ring for advice from Gold Line or GP before doing this.
5. The patient should lie down for at least one hour after administration.
6. Dispose of the syringe in your sharps bin if you have one (use your usual bin if not)

### What are the main side-effects from midazolam?

- Drowsiness and sedation (may persist for several hours after administration)
- Occasionally midazolam can slow breathing. If you are worried this is happening, you can speak to Gold Line or in an emergency call 999 for an ambulance to visit. The ambulance should speak to Gold Line when they are at the house
- For more information please refer to the product details in the box

### Other warnings:

- Keep out of the reach of children.
- Keep the syringe in the protective plastic tube until use.
- Check the expiry date before giving
- Store at room temperature only.

### Additional information:

- Your GP can issue further supplies if needed. Do not leave it too late to request a prescription. It is important that you have access to a supply at all times.

### Where to get more help and advice:

- *Your GP or specialist palliative care nurse.*
- *Manorlands Hospice: 01535 642308 OR Marie Curie Hospice: 01274 337000*
- *Gold Line: 01535 292768*