

## Information to Support Patients and/or Relatives/Friends to give Injections or Buccal Medicines at Home

**(Buccal means medicine placed between the cheek and gums rather than swallowed)**

- You have been given this leaflet because you have asked if you can give injectable or buccal medication at home to help with comfort
- It is important that you feel confident and comfortable to do this.
- The health care team will support you in this task and teach you how it's 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 healthcare team know

## What you need to know:

1. The nurses will put in an injection line- this is a fine tube which goes under the skin of the patient at one end and has a place for a syringe to be attached at the other end. When you give the injection, you will only give the medicine into the line, not into the patient's skin
2. You will be asked to check the skin of the patient where the line goes in before each injection, looking for signs of redness, swelling or leakage. If concerned about the skin, you should contact the Gold Line or your District Nursing team for advice.
3. You will be taught:
  - what the injection is for and when to give it
  - 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
  - how to flush the line after giving the medicine with 0.5ml of sterile water for injection
  - how to safely dispose of any needles and syringes used
4. You will be shown where to write and sign your name, giving details of date, time and amount of drug given and how many ampoules are left.
5. You will be advised to only give 2 injections in any 24 hour period before seeking further advice and help. **If you feel the medication is not being effective, please contact Gold Line or your GP or palliative care nurse.**
6. The patient's regular medication will be reviewed regularly to minimise the need for any extra injections.
7. There is a step by step guide included in this leaflet (see next page)

## Important points to remember

Please contact the **Gold Line on 01535 292768 (24 hours per day) before giving any medications so they can support you in deciding which medicine to give.**

## Step by Step Guide for Injections

1. If you think an injection might be needed, phone the Gold Line on 01535 292768, they will also support you as you give the injection if you need it.
2. Check the prescription administration sheet
3. Check the line is in place and is free from redness
4. Wash hands
5. Draw up medication into the syringe
6. Give injection via the line
7. Flush with 0.5 ml sterile water
8. Re-check site for redness or leakage
9. Record the injection given in patient notes.

## Using Buccal Midazolam

- Remove the syringe from its protective plastic tube. Remove the syringe cap before use to avoid risk of choking.
- DO NOT attach a needle to the syringe
- The full amount of solution should be inserted slowly into the space between the gum and the cheek (as shown below).



- If necessary, approximately half the dose should be given slowly into one side of the mouth, then the remainder given slowly into the other side.
- The dose must not be administered below the tongue since the teeth may clamp shut and break the syringe in the mouth.
- Ideally the patient should remain lying down for at least an hour after administration.
- You can also read the Patient Information Leaflet supplied in the pack.

Name of Medicine	Why needed? (eg pain, anxiety, seizure)	Drug and dose to give (after discussing with Gold Line)

If you require this leaflet in other languages or formats please telephone the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01535 294019

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