**Supplementary medicines information for palliative care patients**

All medicines are supplied with a manufacturer’s ‘Patient Information Leaflet’. This can provide a great deal of information about the medicine, its normal uses and side effects. However, most medicines have more than one effect on the body and for many years, palliative care (hospice) doctors have found that certain medicines are safe and effective for the treatment of symptoms ***other*** than those specified by the medicine’s manufacturer and there is now plenty of experience to confirm such use.

We are providing you with this extra information to inform you of the reason(s) why you are taking this medicine and to highlight any other information. This should be read in conjunction with the ***attached*** manufacturer’s patient information leaflet.

**Levomepromazine**

**In palliative care, levomepromazine is sometimes prescribed to treat sickness or vomiting. It may also be prescribed to treat anxiety and distress.**

**Frequently asked questions**

***Q. What form(s) of this medicine are there and how is it usually taken?***

* Levomepromazine is normally available as a tablet or injection and is usually prescribed in doses of 6.25mg to 12.5mg at bed time but may also be taken more often and/or prescribed at higher doses.
* It can be taken either as a tablet, as an injection under the skin or the total daily dose may also be given as an infusion under the skin over 24 hours via a syringe driver (subcutaneous pump).
* The tablet is only available in 25mg strength. **To obtain a 6.25mg dose** **(which is a quarter of a 25mg tablet),** you will have to carefully break the tablet into four quarters. For a 12.5mg dose, you will have to carefully halve the tablet. If you have problems doing this, your pharmacist can help.

**NB Always follow the dose indicated on the label or advised by a healthcare professional.**

***Q. What are the most likely side effects?***

* Levomepromazine can cause sleepiness and may make you feel dizzy which is why you will probably be advised to take the dose at bed time. If the sleepiness lasts into the day, you should not drive.
* It may also cause dryness of the mouth.

**Further information**

If you have any questions about any of the medicines you have been prescribed or have any problems with side effects, please speak to one of the following:

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# *St Catherine’s Hospice St Catherine’s Hospice Pharmacist*

Telephone: 01293 447333 Telephone: 01293 535000