 

# 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.

# Midazolam solution for injection 10mg/2ml

**In palliative care Midazolam is normally prescribed for control of epileptic seizures or for relief of anxiety, breathlessness and muscle spasm. It is usually given subcutaneously and can be combined safely in an infusion with other medicines that are commonly used for these symptoms.**

# Frequently asked questions

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

* Midazolam is supplied as a solution for injection.
* Midazolam is available in different strengths but in palliative care, the recommended strength is 10mg in 2ml (5mg/ml) in order to reduce the volume of injection.
* Midazolam is usually administered just below the skin (subcutaneously) as a continuous infusion (using a small pump called a syringe driver) or sometimes as a single injection when necessary for extra symptom relief.

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

## Q. What are the most common side effects?

* Drowsiness, reduced concentration, unsteadiness and increased risk of falls, particularly if you are weak.

**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:

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

Telephone: 01293 447333 Telephone: 01293 535000

This supplementary patient information leaflet was drawn up and approved by the St. Catherine’s Hospice Medicines Management Group. V7 October 2022. Review date October 2024.

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