

Morphine and other opioid painkillers for moderate to severe pain:

a NICE guidance compliant patient information leaflet

Care
Compassion
Understanding

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What did we do?

- The Medicines Management Group (a multidisciplinary team comprising medical, nursing and pharmacy representation) has produced a National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) compliant patient information leaflet (PIL) which also contains other salient information relating to the use of strong opioids

Why did we do this?

- In response to the NICE guidance on 'Opioids in palliative care: safe and effective prescribing of strong opioids for pain in palliative care of adults'⁽¹⁾, which recommends that verbal communication between

healthcare professionals and patients about their medicines should be supported by evidence based, written information

Contents

- Using opioids: why prescribed, different preparations and how to take, managing breakthrough pain
- Side effects: common side effects, what to do if experiencing side effects
- Driving and travelling
- Other information: collecting from pharmacy, opioids and alcohol, storage, disposal
- There is a facility on the front cover of the PIL for the dispensing

pharmacy to stick duplicate labels of strong opioid medicines dispensed so that patients and carers know to which drugs the PIL refers

What next?

- The PIL produced has, if locally adapted, wide potential for use in any palliative care organisation and pharmacy dispensing strong opioids for moderate to severe pain in the UK
- It also gives a platform which can easily be revised to incorporate other recommended information on opioid treatment in the light of possible future requirements

¹ NICE clinical guideline 140; May 2012

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