

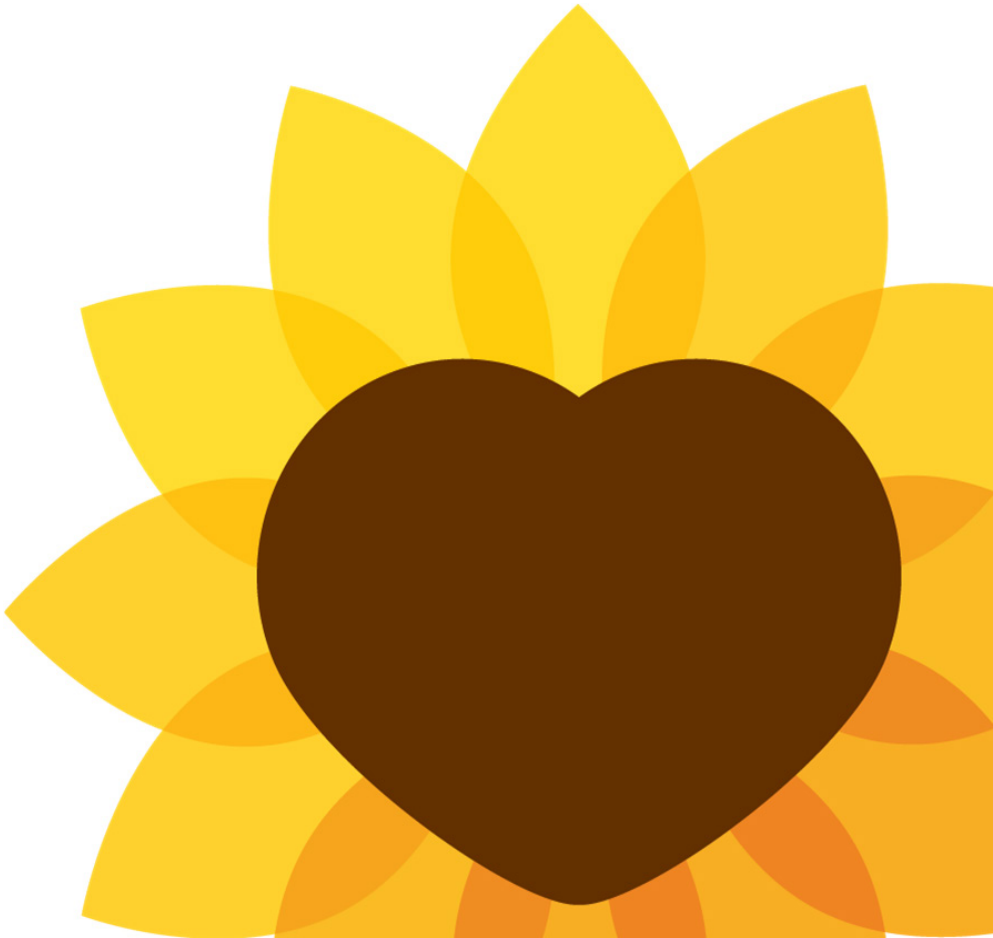


**East Cheshire
Hospice**

Where people come to live

Off Licence Use

**Information for patients and those
important to them**



Introduction

This leaflet contains important information about medicines commonly used at the East Cheshire Hospice. Please read it carefully and ask questions if you have any concerns.

In the field of Palliative Care, it is common practice to prescribe medicines that are used beyond the confines of their licence. This leaflet explains what this means and how it may affect you.

What is meant by a licence?

When a drug's manufacturer markets a new medicine, they must obtain a licence from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) and make a patient information leaflet that goes with the drug outlining its license.

A medicines licence stipulates the conditions and patient groups for which the medicine should be used, and how they should be given.

What is meant by using a medicine outside the licence?

After a medicine has been in use for some time, it often becomes clear that it is effective in conditions, doses or by administration routes that are not specified on the licence. An example of this at the hospice, is the use of injectable drugs under the skin, rather than through the vein.

Even when drugs are commonly used outside of their licence, there is no legal requirement for manufacturers to change it. For most of them, this procedure is too costly to pursue, and the drug has already been well researched in other settings.

Can doctors prescribe medicines outside their licence?

Yes, and this is common place in palliative medicine where medicines are used to control symptoms such as pain.

This is done only when there is no suitable alternative licensed medicine. The medical team will carefully consider what medicines might best suit the need.

How will you know your medicines have been prescribed out their licence?

You can tell if a medicine has been used outside the product licence, if the Patient Information Leaflet supplied by the manufacturer does not contain information on your condition.

Many medicines prescribed by the medical team at East Cheshire Hospice are outside of their licence but used within their widely accepted limitations of evidence and research.

The prescribing doctor may not inform you specifically of this. Whether within license or not, the medical team will give you a clear explanation of the medications prescribed and discuss with you the expected benefits and possible side effects.

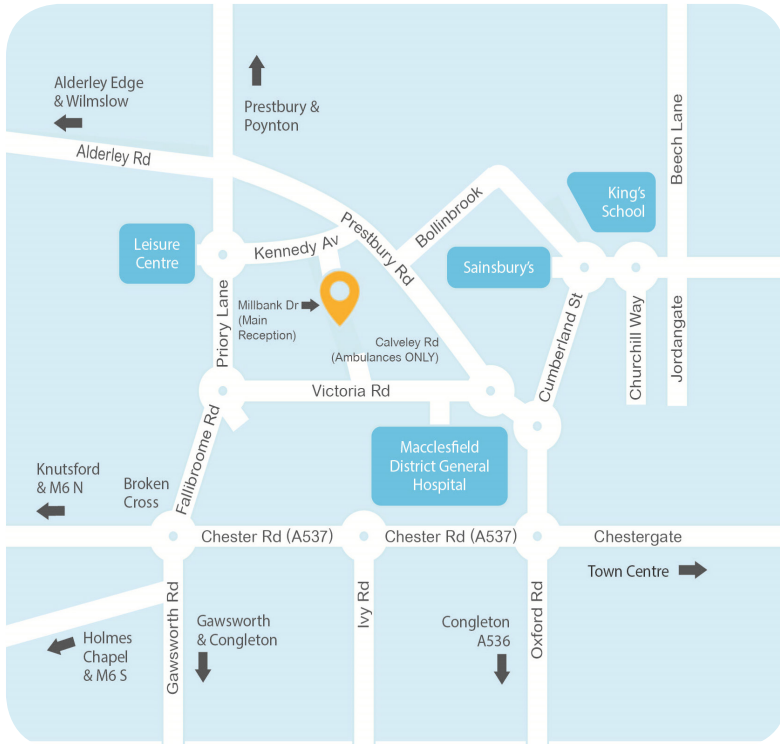
Do you have any questions?

If you have concerns about any of the information contained in this leaflet or about your medicines, please do not hesitate to talk to a doctor or nurse who will be pleased to help.



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East Cheshire Hospice
Millbank Drive
Macclesfield
Cheshire SK10 3DR

Main reception: 01625 610364
Fax: 01625 666995

www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk