

**Just In Case (JIC) Bags.**

**What is it?**

The Just in Case (JIC) service has been running since 2011 and provides improved access to four key medicines for rapid control of breakthrough symptoms in palliative care. Following a multidisciplinary review of the service several changes have been made to the scheme for 2018.

* The JIC now uses a sealed orange bag instead of a plastic box.
* There’s a choice of medicines from an approved ‘menu’ of drugs.
* Once opened, remaining medicines in the bag can be retained for future use.

**Who**

A JIC should be considered for any patient with a terminal diagnosis and a prognosis of 3 months or less.

**When**

It’s expected that a JIC will be initiated before a patient starts on the care decisions tool for the last days of life. The decision to supply should be based on an agreement between the patient and the prescriber.

**How**

**Supply**

A menu of drugs allows treatment to be tailored to the individual or to overcome any medicines supply issues.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Symptom** | **Standard JIC** | **Alternative 1** | **Alternative 2** |
| **Pain** | Diamorphine 10mg *(x5)* | Morphine 10mg  *(x5)* | Oxycodone 10mg/ml (*x5)* |
| **Nausea / Vomiting** | Cyclizine 50mg/ml *(x5)* | Haloperidol 5mg/ml *(x5)* | Levomepromazine 25mg/ml *(x5)* |
| **Respiratory** | Hyoscine Hydrobromide  400mcg/ml *(x5)* | Glycopyrronium 200mcg/ml *(x5)* |  |
| **Anxiety** | Midazolam 10mg/2ml *(x5)* |  |  |
| **Other** | Water For Injection  10ml *(x5)* |  |  |

A JIC should be prescribed by the GP using a standard WP10. One drug for each symptom should be chosen from the ‘menu’. A starting dose for each medicine will need to be included to satisfy Controlled Drugs regulations and to facilitate administration.

Continued Over

Ideally an All Wales Medication Record Chart (AWMRC) will be partially completed by the GP at the same time as the prescription (A blank chart will be included at the pharmacy if not completed at the time of prescribing). On presentation at a community pharmacy, a pharmacist will make the JIC available within 72 hours. The pharmacist will record the earliest expiry of the JIC medication and contact the prescriber to assess a resupply should this date become due.

**Where**

Patients should keep the bag in a safe but accessible place in the home. If nursing notes are in place the location of the JIC should be included.

**Administration**

The JIC affords improved access to medication for the treatment of breakthrough symptoms. Medication in the JIC can either be personally administered by a prescriber or by a nurse in accordance with the instructions contained in the AWMRC. To expedite treatment, an AWMRC should ideally be completed at the time of prescribing and include suitable starting doses for the patient. A copy of the All Wales Symptom Control Guidance is included in the pack.

Ongoing need for symptom control should be met by normal or appropriate anticipatory prescribing practice. Any medication remaining in the JIC after opening should be included in the patient’s “home stock” for future use if appropriate.

**Disposal**

Any medicines contained in the pack which are no longer required should be returned to the pharmacy for disposal. Community pharmacies dispensing the packs will record the earliest date of expiry for the medicines within the pack and advise the GP of any packs that may be due to expire to assess if another is needed.

**Record Keeping**

Medication administered within the home must be recorded on the AWMRC. The community pharmacy will record the issue of the packs.