

Dear Colleague,

Launch of New Community Prescription Chart (attached)

I am writing to inform you that a new Community Prescription Chart has been developed to be used in the communities of Wakefield, Calderdale and Kirklees. The chart is used to enable District Nurses to administer treatments in the community without delay.

It is recommended that any patient who is discharged from hospital as a 'Fast Track' discharge or is identified as being in the last days or short weeks of life has a small amount of medication prescribed as a TTO to manage commonly experienced symptoms of pain, breathlessness, respiratory tract secretions, nausea and agitation. These 'anticipatory' medications should include an opioid, antisecretory drug, antiemetic and benzodiazepine that can be administered by the subcutaneous route.

The anticipatory medication will be prescribed on the Community Prescription Chart by a hospital doctor on discharge and will enable a District Nurse to administer these treatments. The chart will be sent home with the patient or carer along with any other relevant documentation. **This will ensure that medication can be administered promptly without the immediate need for a GP to visit to prescribe.** The MYHT discharge prescription will also be produced as normal.

To support the use of the chart some further guidance about appropriate drugs and doses and an example of a completed Community Prescription Chart has been produced and is attached.

The new community charts should be used for patients discharged from Monday 21st October 2013.

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