

Unlicensed medicines

This factsheet is for guidance only and has been produced with assistance from healthcare professionals

Within specialist palliative care we sometimes use medication that is classed as 'unlicensed'. This may mean the medication is officially used for other conditions, but it has been specially prepared for you by a pharmacist or is being used in an unusual way, for example crushing a tablet to make it easier for you to swallow. You may be prescribed a medicine to treat a symptom for which the product is not licensed.

Medicines are marketed to treat specific conditions but often help to relieve other symptoms as well; for example some medicines that are licensed to treat epilepsy also relieve nerve pain. Using certain drugs to treat complex symptoms is quite common in palliative care but can cause some confusion when patients or carers read information leaflets which refer only to the licensed conditions.

Sometimes when medications are no longer manufactured in the UK or there are problems with the supply chain within the UK, you may be given medication we have ordered from another country. These are of the usual high quality, having a license in that country, but are classified as 'unlicensed' as they would not hold a UK license for use.

You will only be prescribed a medicine outside its licensed conditions if the doctor considers it to be appropriate and necessary. If you have any concerns about this then a doctor, nurse or our pharmacist would be pleased to discuss this with you.

In case of comments or complaints, please contact:

Chief Executive, or
Director of Care Services
LOROS, Groby Road, Leicester
LE3 9QE

or, Care Quality Commission, East Midlands Office, Citygate, Gallowgate, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 4PA

Alternative language copies available

If you would like this information in another language or format, please contact the Patient Experience Lead PA on (0116) 231 8435

LOROS Hospice is dedicated to ensuring equality and diversity is at the core of all our activities.

This leaflet is updated regularly. For the most up to date information please visit loros.co.uk/care

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Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

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and *your family*