Any questions?

If you have any questions about your JiC Bag, do feel free to ask your District Nurse or GP.

‘Just in Case Medication’

Information for Patients and Carers

What is Just in Case Medication?

Just in Case Medication is a small supply of medication that is kept in your home - just in case it is needed one day.

The boxes of medication are kept together in a normal pharmacy bag which we call the Just in Case Bag (or JiC Bag).

This medication is only to be given by a registered nurse or a doctor.
Why have a JiC Bag?

Sometimes it can be difficult to get these medicines in a hurry, especially at night or at weekends, so it is very helpful to have them ready – just in case. This medication is provided to ensure that, should you need symptom relief but have difficulty swallowing at any time during the next few weeks, your nursing team/GP will be able to treat you quickly and effectively. Most patients find this reassuring.

Some people don’t ever need this medication. Your JiC Bag will have been prescribed by your GP or your hospital doctor. The nursing team will also make sure that the medicines are accounted for and used appropriately. You may see them counting the medication and recording details on special forms.

What is in my JiC Bag?

In your JiC Bag, there are some small boxes containing ampoules (glass bottles) of several different medicines, and some information for the nurses and doctors. The medicines in the bag may vary from patient to patient. You will find the names of the medication on each box.

The medicines in your JiC Bag can help with pain, sickness, restlessness and shortness of breath.

How do I look after my JiC Bag?

The medicines in your bag have been prescribed for you and you should not give them to anyone else.

They don’t need to be kept in the fridge but should be kept in a cool place which is safe and out of the reach of children and pets; also out of the reach of anyone who may be tempted to abuse these medicines.

Please ensure that your community nursing team and carers know where you have decided to store the bag.

When the medicines are no longer required, they must be returned to the pharmacy that provided your JiC Bag wherever possible. If that pharmacy is not known they can be returned to any pharmacy. The medicines must be returned to a pharmacy as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the contents of this leaflet a member of your nursing team, or your GP, will be happy to answer your questions.