‘Just In Case’

Process for anticipatory prescribing for patients with a life limiting illness

Patients with a life limiting illness often experience new or worsening symptoms. ‘Just In Case’ can be provided in advance where a need for medication is anticipated. This process should be followed by all professionals in line with best practice.

Community Nurse or GP identifies patient, and discusses medications with GP, patient and family. Has the electronic Palliative Care Summary (ePCS)/e-KIS been completed?

GP completes GP10 or nurse prescriber completes GP10N

Kardex is completed by prescriber

e-PCS or e-KIS is updated

Patient’s carer takes GP10/GP10N to pharmacy → medicines dispensed → patient’s carer collects medicines or pharmacy delivers.

Community Nurse visits patient with Just In Case box (collected from the Community Nurse base), stocked with core contents (see list in the case).

Patient/carer given information leaflet and discussions held regarding use, storage etc.

Community Nurse packs medications in box and asks patient / carer to store in an agreed safe place in the home. Location of box noted in patient’s medical and nursing notes.

Community Nurse inserts kardex and medication stock recording sheet (optional) into patient’s notes. Informs district nursing OOH service about presence and location of box and contents.

When items used: record administration on kardex, Controlled Drugs entered on medication stock recording sheet (optional) and information included in relevant care plan.

If items are not used: ensure that prescription charts are reviewed at least every 7 days to ensure that medicines and doses are still appropriate.

Community Nurse informs GP – discuss future management in view of symptomatic phase. Any new medications to be discussed, prescribed, signed and recorded as before.

When episode of care finishes:

Patient’s carer/relative returns unused medicines in zip-seal green plastic bag to pharmacy for destruction. Pharmacist destroys all medicines as appropriate.

‘Just in Case’ box returned to Community Nursing team. Box cleaned and restocked with core contents.