

SYMPTOM SUPPORT MEDICINES PACK (SSMP) ORAL MEDICINES FOR PALLIATIVE CARE or COVID-19 PATIENTS

Purpose

The purpose of the SSMP is to enable patients to have a small amount of oral medicines available in their home to treat EoL symptoms while the patient is still able to swallow, and before there is a need for sub. cut. Medicines. These are prn medicines, for up to 7 days. This will give patients and carers access to appropriate medicines in a timely manner as getting medicines quickly can be difficult, especially at night or weekends, and at times when health care services are under a lot of pressure.

The package accompanying the medicines will contain a carer diary and a Carer/ Patient Information Leaflet to support carers in looking after patients with early EoL symptoms.

The additional benefit of the SSMP is that by having access to oral palliative care medicines early, it is likely to reduce the prescribing of sc medicines too early, and so reduce the waste from unused JIC boxes at a time when sc medicines are in short supply.

Who is The SSMP For?

The group of patients most likely to benefit are early palliative care patients who are still able to swallow, including patients with Covid-19 symptoms, with breathing difficulties and restlessness.

Provision in Care Homes (see PSD information)

Where a care home has one GP practice for all the residents, it may be that these medicines can be provided under a Patient Specific Direction (PSD). This is for named patients who have been assessed by the prescriber as meeting the criteria of the SSMP and likely to benefit from it. This would allow a stock of medicines for these patients, and hopefully reduce the amount of JIC prescribed.

Prescribing by GPs & Severn Hospice Doctors and NMPs

Patients in their own homes will have access to the SSMP through their GP or Severn Hospice clinician. The SSMP information is available, for use by all prescribers, on the Severn Hospice internet site under the GP hub portal.

Contents of SSMP

- 1) Information for Carers/Patients giving details of the medicines and contact numbers for support
- 2) Prescriber information on oral medicines suitable for the SSMP, including doses. This has been based upon the most recent information from the APM, which is available on the Covid-19 and GP hub on Severn Hospice internet site.
- 3) Carer administration chart for carers to record administration and effectiveness of the medicines.

Information on Patient Specific Directions (PSD) is available on the Severn Hospice GP hub and Covid-19 site.