



Palliative  
Meds Info

# Medicines Management in Primary Palliative Care

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Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services  
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Lady's  
Hospice  
& Care  
Services

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# Overview

- Access to medicines in the community.
- Palliative Meds Info Service



# Access to Medicines in Primary Care

- Medicines commonly used in Palliative Care are not always easily accessible to patients in the community setting.
- Unlicensed medicines and non-prescription medicines may pose problems as they are not always paid for by the government medicines schemes.

# HSE Medicine Schemes

- **The Medical Card** (also referred to as a GMS card): A €2.50 charge applies to all prescription medicines dispensed to patients holding a medical card.
- **The Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS)**: An individual or family in has to pay up to €144 each month for approved prescribed drugs.

# HSE Medicine Schemes

- **The Long Term Illness (LTI) scheme:** This scheme allows the patient to get medicines, directly related to the treatment of the illness, free of charge.
- **The Health (Amendment) Act Card (HAA Card).**
- **The High Tech Scheme.**
- **Methadone Scheme.**
- **Essential Non-GMS scheme.**

# Why are certain medications not available on the medical card or DPS schemes?

- Manufacturers must submit an application to the DoHC.
- Medicine must be licensed for use in Ireland.
- There is a list of Exempt Medicinal Products.



# IAPC Pharmacists Group

- Requesting that pharmaceutical companies apply to the IMB for a license for the medication and apply to the DoHC for reimbursement.
- Over the next few months we will approach the HSE Medicines Management Programme regarding reimbursement of essential medicines.

# Palliative Meds Info

- An national advice line service on medicines use in palliative care for health professionals to support them in caring for their patients.
- Staffed by experienced clinical pharmacists working in front-line specialist palliative care services providing up-to-date, practice-based solutions and responses.
- Proactively circulates medicines information.



# Palliative Meds Info

**Telephone  
and Email  
Advisory  
Service on  
Medicines in  
Palliative  
Care**

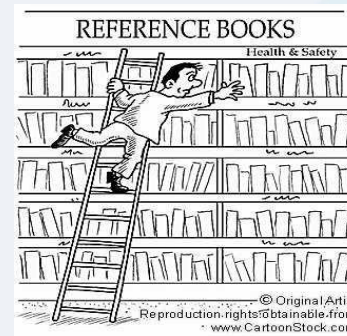
**On-line  
Information  
Resources &  
E-Newsletter  
Circulation**

**Guideline  
Development  
for Medicines  
in Palliative  
Care**

**Medicines  
Education  
and  
Research  
Support in  
Palliative  
Care**

# How the Palliative Meds Info Service Works

- Community/ Primary Care
- Hospitals
- Hospices



- Search of:**
1. Specialised resources
  2. Database of previous enquiries
  3. Use of practice based knowledge and expertise.

**Answer given and recorded in database (*enquirer and patient details confidential*)**

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# How the Palliative Meds Info Service Works

- Webpage on Our Lady's Hospice Website [www.olh.ie](http://www.olh.ie)
- Telephone: 01 4912578  
9am-1pm and 2-4pm Monday-Friday, answering service records enquiries outside of these times.
- Email: [palliativemedsinfo@olh.ie](mailto:palliativemedsinfo@olh.ie)
- Aim to respond to all enquiries in a suitable timeframe.
- Proactively circulate medicines information on important issues for medicines use in palliative care.

# Sample Enquiries

- What is the lowest strength available of Durogesic DTrans® patch?
- How to convert oral methadone to fentanyl IV?
- Are the following drugs compatible when mixed together in a syringe for SC administration: clonazepam, haloperidol, oxycodone and cyclizine?
- Are novel oral anticoagulants safe to use in patients with brain tumours?

# Webpages

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Palliative Meds Info' page. The browser's address bar shows 'palliative-meds-info/'. The page features a navigation menu on the left with links for Home, About Us, Patients, Residents and Visitors, Services, Blackrock Hospice, Departments, Clinical Services, and Palliative Meds Info. The main content area includes a header for 'PALLIATIVE MEDS INFO' with a disclaimer: 'This service is for health professionals only. If you are a member of the public with a question about your medicines, we advise you to consult your doctor or pharmacist.' Below this is a section 'About the service' and a paragraph describing the service. A large green cross icon contains the text 'Palliative Meds Info'. A 'Contact Details' box provides the telephone number 01 4912578 and email address palliativemedsinfo@olh.ie. A list of links for 'Medication Guidelines', 'Pain Management', 'Symptom Control', 'Palliative Care in the Community', 'Patient Information Leaflets', and 'Newsletters' is also present.

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## PALLIATIVE MEDS INFO

*This service is for health professionals only. If you are a member of the public with a question about your medicines, we advise you to consult your doctor or pharmacist.*

### About the service

The Palliative Meds Info service is a service providing information for health professionals on all aspects of drug therapy used in palliative care. This service is based in the pharmacy department at Our Lady's Hospice in Harold's Cross and responds to enquiries received by telephone or email. In addition, we publish a regular newsletter and post medicines information here on our webpage.

**Click here for [Terms and Conditions](#) which must be read before the service is accessed.**

### How can the service be accessed?

**Telephone:** 01- 4912578  
**Email:** [palliativemedsinfo@olh.ie](mailto:palliativemedsinfo@olh.ie)  
Enquiries will be received by telephone between 9am and 4pm Monday – Friday, except public holidays. An answering service records your phone message outside of these times.

### Medication Guidelines

### Pain Management

### Symptom Control

### Palliative Care in the Community

### Patient Information Leaflets

### Newsletters

**Contact Details**  
**Telephone:** 01 4912578  
**Email:** [palliativemedsinfo@olh.ie](mailto:palliativemedsinfo@olh.ie)

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**Clinical Services**  
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Chaplaincy  
**Palliative Meds Info**  
Medication Guidelines  
Pain Management  
Symptom Control

# So far.....

- Over 1,500 individual enquiries.
- Webpages – 10,000 hits from 29 countries.
- Involved in guideline development.
- Developed an education day for pharmacists.



# Awards

- IPN Pharmacy Awards: Winners of the Community and Hospital Pharmacy Alliance Award June 2012.
- Helix Health Irish Pharmacist of the Year award in PBR category 2012.



# Questions



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