

Non-medical Prescribing



Patient information

Because every day matters

www.hospiscare.co.uk

Registered charity no. 297798



Hospiscare

Caring in the heart of Devon

Non-medical prescribing

Hospiscare has a number of Clinical Nurse Specialists who have undertaken additional training in order to be able to prescribe medications for you. We have designed this leaflet to answer any questions you may have.

What is non-medical prescribing?

In the past, only doctors could prescribe medicines. In recent years, a number of changes have been made to prescribing laws. These changes now allow other health professionals such as nurses and pharmacists to prescribe medicines once they have completed a period of specialist training. This is known as non-medical prescribing. Non-medical prescribing has been introduced to make it easier and quicker for you to get medicines you need.

There are many benefits to non-medical prescribing, including:

- helping control your symptoms
- it may speed up your consultation time and improve your experience
- improve your access to medicines.

We will ask you if you agree to a non-medical prescriber writing your prescription. Whatever you decide, we will give you the best treatment and care possible.

Is it safe?

Yes. Non-medical prescribers receive specialist training and are approved by a professional healthcare body. The training they have done is in addition to their main nurse training.

What can they prescribe for me?

They can prescribe medicines that are within their specialist area. For Hospiscare staff this will be medicines used for palliative care, which

includes a range of conditions, and aim to alleviate your symptoms (e.g. pain, sickness). They would not be able to prescribe medicines to treat common conditions outside of their specialist area (e.g. diabetes or high blood pressure). They wouldn't routinely issue a repeat prescription, this should be obtained from your GP.

Would they always prescribe if a medicine was needed?

Your specialist nurse would only prescribe if they felt it was appropriate to do so following a full assessment, including taking a thorough history of your complaint. The nurse will always involve you in decisions and will discuss any changes with your GP.

How will my doctor know you have prescribed medication for me?

The Hospiscare prescriber will ensure that your GP and any other healthcare professionals involved in your care are informed of any medication they have prescribed. If you would like to discuss this with your own GP, this can be arranged.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss these with a member of your Hospiscare team.

Hospiscare is a charity

If you live in Exeter, Mid or East Devon, Hospiscare is your local adult hospice charity. Should you or a loved one need care for any type of terminal illness, our professional team of doctors and nurses are here to help. If you would like to make a contribution towards the charity, please visit the website to donate www.hospiscare.co.uk or contact us on 01392 688020. A gift to Hospiscare in your Will helps to ensure the future of the charity in Devon for years to come.

Tell us about your experience of Hospiscare

Hospiscare welcomes feedback, compliments and complaints and we use them to develop our staff and services.

We know the majority of people have a positive experience, but encourage all your feedback, positive or negative. We investigate complaints thoroughly and treat them as an opportunity to learn and improve our practice.

To tell us about your experience of Hospiscare, please contact:

Director of Care

Hospiscare, Searle House, Dryden Road, Exeter EX2 5JJ

Phone: 01392 688000

Should you make a complaint, we will send you a letter or email with details of any investigation with an expected timescale where possible. If you wish to see a copy of Hospiscare's Complaints Policy, please ask. If you are dissatisfied with our response you can contact:

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QP

Email: phso.enquiries@ombudsman.org.uk

Customer Helpline Tel: 0345 015 4033

Let us know if you would like the information in this leaflet in a different format; for example in large print or spoken word.

Hospiscare is registered by: Care Quality Commission, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, LONDON SW1W 9SZ www.cqc.org.uk

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