

# NORTHERN IRELAND MEDICINES MANAGEMENT Newsletter Supplement Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network

July 2024

Welcome to the Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network newsletter. This newsletter is intended as a quarterly publication, with the aim of keeping in touch with Network pharmacies. We intend to use this publication to notify you of potential drug shortages, learning from incidents relating to palliative care, potential CPD opportunities and any changes to the Network's structure or ways of working. In addition, we hope you find the contact details for the Network co-ordinator useful. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any suggestions for topics or potential issues you wish to raise.

## New data collection forms for network activity

Data collection is an inherent part of the network, allowing us to evaluate the Network as a service.

In order to make life easier, we have moved to collecting this data electronically. Below is the link to the electronic form. Please complete one of these forms whenever you dispense a prescription for a palliative patient. There is also a QR code that links directly to the form for ease of input via mobile phone.

<https://forms.office.com/e/abTrYQQR9v>

- We recommend saving the form link as a favourite on your web browser.
- There is no need to send additional data or paper copies anywhere. Your form will automatically be submitted to a spreadsheet.
- If you have any recommendations or issues with the form, please feed them back to [chris.black@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:chris.black@belfasttrust.hscni.net)



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## Introducing the Marie Curie Daffodil standards

The Marie Curie Daffodil Standards were created in conjunction with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. It is a voluntary programme that asks pharmacies to reflect on their practice as it relates to the provision of palliative care services. They have been designed specifically to **not** create a burden of work.

Our plan is to tweak the document to make it specific to Northern Ireland, and trial its application in Network Pharmacies before rolling the scheme out more broadly. Further information can be found at: [Daffodil Standards \(mariecurie.org.uk\)](https://mariecurie.org.uk)

## The Daffodil Standards

**ROYAL  
 PHARMACEUTICAL  
 SOCIETY**

**PARTNERED WITH**



**Marie  
 Curie**

## Palliative Care resources, clinical information and feedback

At the last palliative care ECHO, we shared some resources for further information. These are all valuable resources for information on palliative medicine.

- [Adult Palliative Care Guide \(microguide.global\)](#) (note: this guide is maintained by the Belfast Trust, however, it contains regional information which may be used by all; other Trusts may have their own version of the guidelines)
- NICPLD online learning on palliative care [NICPLD: Open learning](#)
- PANG (Palliative Adult Network Guidelines) <https://book.pallcare.info/>



## Addressing issues raised at the Network ECHO talk

At the last ECHO meeting, a number of issues and suggestions cropped up:

1. Pharmacists were keen for improved links to out of hours to manage medication supply and to try to improve the selection of medication strengths and drug choice in line with stock holdings to prevent delays
2. Some suggested improved links to community nurse specialists
3. More up to date information sheets on specific medicines
4. Alerts for shortages

While some of these issues will likely require long and persistent intervention, the following actions have already been proposed:

1. Production of a poster for out of hours centres to specifically address the most common type of selection errors, e.g. midazolam 5mg/5ml or morphine 10mg/10ml. To also include directions needed for a legal prescription.
2. The Network co-ordinator will link attempt to link with community nurse specialists, including Northern Ireland Hospice specialist nurses, and encourage them to make links with their local network pharmacies.
3. Please see the resources section of this newsletter for links to the Microguide app. New medicines information is being added to the Belfast Trust Microguide website and app all the time, and is available for free either on a website or via your phone. If you have any suggestions for information you would like to see here, please contact the network co-ordinator to discuss.
4. The Network co-ordinator will stay abreast of shortages relating to palliative care medicines and suggest alternatives or workarounds as they arise.



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## Network Co-ordinator contact details

You can contact Chris Black with any clinical enquires relating to palliative care, or issues relating to the Network.

Chris Black, Palliative Care Pharmacist.

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This newsletter has been produced for GPs and pharmacists by the Regional Team of Palliative Care pharmacists and Regional Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team. If you have any queries or require further information on the contents, please contact one of the [Pharmacy Advisers](#).

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication.

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