

Where I can find out more

Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist may be able to give you further information, help or put you in touch with a support group for your illness or condition.

The off-label medicine(s) you have been prescribed today are:

Medicine	Reason for use
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.....
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.....
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.....
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.....
.....

Name: **Date:**



Jersey Hospice Care
your care, your choice, your time

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Use of off-label medicines

Contact Us

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Why you have been given this leaflet

You have been given this information leaflet because the medicine prescribed for you is not licensed either:

- for people of your age
- to treat the condition(s) you have
- by the route or dose you have been prescribed

This is called an 'off-label' use.

We want to reassure you that we have thought carefully about the most appropriate medicine for you. Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist can discuss the reasons for choosing the medicine over others, and any other options that are open to you.

Why and how are medicines licenced

Before a manufacturer can sell a medicine to treat a particular condition in the UK and Jersey they need to apply for a licence. A group called the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) looks after this.

The manufacturers must show the MHRA that their medicine:

- works for the illness treated
- does not have too many side effects / risks
- is made under good conditions

To make sure that the medicine is safe and works, the manufacturer tests it on a small number of people. This is called a 'clinical trial'. The MHRA looks at the information from these clinical trials, then decide whether to grant a licence.

Why off-label medicines are used

There are several reasons why medicines are used off-label, for example:

- the medicine may have a licence for one illness, but not for other similar illnesses
- the medicine may be licensed for use in adults, but not in young people or the elderly. This is usually because people from these age groups were not involved in the clinical trials
- in palliative care sometimes new uses are found for medicines, but they have not been licensed for this reason
- mixing medicines in a syringe pump is an 'off-label' use, but is a common way to deliver medicines for symptom control in palliative care and is safe

What this means for you

There are no licensed medicines currently available to treat the condition(s) that you have. Or your doctor, nurse or pharmacist feels this medicine will suit you better than any licensed medicines

Patient information leaflets (packed with your medicine) may not mention the condition that we are trying to treat. Do not worry about this.

Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist will have considered the benefits of this medicine before prescribing it. If you get any unpleasant or unexpected effects whilst taking the medicine, discuss these with a healthcare professional as soon as you are able to.