



**Mersey and West Lancashire  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Trust**

# **PATIENT INFORMATION**

## **Your Unlicensed Medicines**

**Pharmacy**

## **WHAT IS THIS LEAFLET ABOUT?**

In the UK most medicines are ‘licensed’ but some are not. This leaflet explains why medicines are licensed and why some useful medicines do not have licences at all, a licence for your illness or for children in general.

You will have been given this leaflet by your doctor or pharmacist because the medicine prescribed is not ‘licensed’ or does not have a licence for your illness or for children in general. We want to reassure you that we have thought very carefully about the best medicine for you or your child.

## **WHY ARE MEDICINES “LICENSED”?**

The manufacturer of each medicine must ask the government for a ‘Product Licence’ if they want to sell their medicine in the UK. They must demonstrate that their medicine is effective for the illnesses to be treated, has been made to a high standard and does not have too many side effects or risks.

## **WHICH TYPES OF MEDICINES DO NOT HAVE A LICENCE?**

- Some liquid medicines for children
- Some medicines only used for rare illnesses.
- Some medicines that have not been through a full clinical trial

## **HOW DO I KNOW THE MEDICINES ARE SAFE AND WILL WORK?**

This medicine will have been recommended by an expert or your doctor will have read information that says it is the best one for you or your child.

If you or your child needs a special medicine your pharmacist will ensure a suitable preparation is available.

## **HOW WILL I KNOW IF A MEDICINE IS NOT LICENSED?**

Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you.

When you read the information leaflet you may notice the information doesn't refer to the specific illness you have or it may say it should not be used for children or your child's age.

Unlicensed medicines may be more difficult to obtain. Your pharmacist will inform you of this and ensure special arrangements are made to fulfill your prescription.

## **SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT TAKING/GIVING THESE MEDICINES?**

Your pharmacist may have made a special information leaflet about the medicine or illness. Please ask.

Often there are support groups for particular illnesses or conditions. If you are a member seek advice from the group.

If you are not a member ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for more information.

## **IF I HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

Talk to the person who gave you this leaflet (usually your doctor or pharmacist).

## **HOW TO OBTAIN A FURTHER SUPPLY OF YOUR UNLICENSED MEDICINES**

Medicine Name

Strength

Form

Manufactured by

Approximate time required for ordering

If the medicine is to continue for some time after the hospital appointment please:

- Go to your GP to obtain a prescription and take this to your local pharmacy along with this leaflet
- Make an appointment or call the hospital consultant for another prescription and take this to the hospital pharmacy for a further supply.

**(Delete as appropriate)**

**DO NOT LET THE MEDICINE RUN OUT BEFORE  
CONTACTING THE DOCTOR FOR A PRESCRIPTION**

For further information please contact the pharmacy department:

<b>Southport</b>	<b>(01704) 705210</b>
<b>Ormskirk</b>	<b>(01695) 656422</b>

**During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**

## **MATRON**

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9.00 to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

## **INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST**

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION**

Your own GP –

### **OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:**

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) - 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) - 0800 328 6297

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need  
this leaflet in an alternative format**

**Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust**

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Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital  
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN

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**FOR APPOINTMENTS**

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