



JUST IN CASE BOX Newsletter

7th February, 2012

What are Just in Case boxes?

Just in Case (JiC) boxes contain an agreed set of prescribed medicines that are often required at the end of someone's life. They were introduced in response to anecdotal evidence that some patients experienced a delay in obtaining the medicines they needed. The reasons for this were sometimes unavoidable.

What did the pilot show?

The JiC boxes were tried first in Airdrie & Clydesdale and extended into Coatbridge & Hamilton. The audit results from 180 boxes used in these areas showed:

- They prevented:
 - 71 hospital admissions
 - 102 calls to out of hours
- They allowed 56 people to stay in their chosen place of care

Additional comments demonstrated the value of the boxes in terms of having symptom management medication available immediately when required and the reassurance this provided for families. The benefits to patients and families considerably outweighed the cost of supplying the boxes.

The audit also showed that only 60% of the boxes were supplied with all five recommended medicines. The reasons for this need to be further explored, but we are keen that all five medicines are included because no potential crisis can be reliably predicted. They are included not because their use is expected, but just in case they are needed.

Roll-out across Lanarkshire

Roll-out will be by locality for areas that were not part of the pilot. Demand is such that many people are already using the JiC prescription without the plastic boxes. Since the pilot results were so conclusive, there is no need to audit all future use of the boxes. The roll-out documentation will therefore consist only of the JiC Prescription and Administration Record, Patient Information Leaflet and patient label.

Where can you learn more?

JiC information sessions (primarily aimed at Community Nurses and GPs) have been arranged as follows:

24th Feb, Jim Foley Community Centre,
John Street, Wishaw ML2 7TG

29th Feb, Health Education Room, Central
Health Centre, Cumbernauld

1st Mar, Medical Education Room, Hunter
Health Centre, East Kilbride

The time for all three sessions is **12.30 to 1.30pm** and we are trying to arrange for **lunch to be provided** (we will confirm this).

The information sessions will be run by Community Macmillan Nurses and Clinical Practice Teachers from each locality.

How to obtain JiC boxes

Boxes will be supplied to those who attend the information sessions. Stocks for anyone unable to attend will be sent to each locality. Clinical Practice Teachers are arranging where these can be stored for easy access. Documentation for repeat use of the boxes can be downloaded from Firstport or the Palliative Care web site (details overleaf).

Further information can be obtained from the MCN office by telephone (01355-593468) or email Helen.Alexander@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk.

JUST IN CASE BOX PAPERWORK



Inside the Just in Case Box you should put:

- A Prescription and Administration Record form
- A Patient Information Leaflet

Then stick the Just in Case label on the lid of the box

Copies of the up to date paperwork and label templates can be obtained as below. Note labels are available in three sizes to suit what you have in stock (8 to a page, 14 to a page and 21 to a page)

FIRSTPORT

Use the link below or search 'Palliative Care' on the home page (top right). Click on the top item (Palliative Care), which will take you to the Palliative Care MCN page where you will see a folder for Just in Case Boxes containing the paperwork.

<http://firstport/sites/mcns/palliativecare/default.aspx>

NHS LANARKSHIRE PUBLIC WEBSITE

www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk

If you don't have access to Firstport copies of the paperwork can be printed from the NHS Lanarkshire public website. Use the link below straight to the Palliative Care Network page

OR from the home page search 'Just in Case Boxes', then click the first item on the list (Palliative Care Network). You will find the paperwork under 'Related Documents' on the right hand side.

<http://www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/SERVICES/PALLIATIVECARE/Pages/Palliativecarenetwork.aspx>

IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING OR PRINTING THE JUST IN CASE BOX PAPERWORK CONTACT THE MCN OFFICE

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