

## JIC box additional information for GP practice staff

### What is a JIC box?

A JIC box is a cardboard box containing a set list of medication that are likely to be needed for End of Life Care (EOLC), which are given via a syringe driver by either doctors or nurses in the out of hours situation. This means that if a patient needs these drugs Out of Hours then they are available and delays are avoided. The box is sealed with a label and only opened when needed. Doctors must have explained the rationale of the JIC box i.e. EOLC to the patient and/or carer so there are no surprises when they receive it.

### When is it used?

It is prescribed around **4-8 weeks before** it is expected to be needed. Therefore:

### **A JIC BOX IS NEVER URGENT**

### So what if a doctor or nurse says the patient needs the medication urgently?

If medication is needed urgently then a normal prescription is written, and not put into a JIC box.

### Why do I need to ensure pharmacy queries are dealt with promptly?

Although a JIC box is never urgent, patients and carers may be anxious to avoid delay. Therefore, please deal with pharmacy queries promptly as this may delay dispensing.

### Controlled drugs regulations

If a prescription for a controlled drug e.g diamorphine is not written correctly it cannot be dispensed until it is corrected by the prescriber or a new prescription is issued.

### What is in it?

The standard contents are as follows (deviation from the list above is discouraged):

Drug	Quantity
Diamorphine hydrochloride 10mg injection	10
Midazolam 10mg in 2ml injection	10
Haloperidol 5mg in 1ml injection	10
Cyclizine 50mg in 1ml injection	10
Water for injection 10ml	10
Hyoscine hydrobromide 600mcg in 1ml injection	10*
Glycopyrronium 200mcg/ml 3ml	10*

\*Either hyoscine hydrobromide or glycopyrronium should be prescribed, depending on patient need, prescriber preference, and product availability

### Pharmacy delivery

Routine pharmacy delivery processes apply to JIC boxes; there is no additional requirement for pharmacies to deliver JIC boxes to patients' homes.

### Nursing homes (and some care homes without nursing)

JIC boxes are never issued to nursing homes because they are legally required to open the box on arrival to correctly store the drugs, negating the rationale for the JIC box; some care homes without nursing also operate similar procedures. For these patients, normal prescriptions should be used.

### What happens after death?

The remaining contents of the box (plus any other medicines that are unused), should be returned to the pharmacy who dispensed them (or another pharmacy if this is not practical) for safe and legal disposal.