

Supplementary medicines information for palliative care patients

All medicines are supplied with a manufacturer's 'Patient Information Leaflet'. This can provide a great deal of information about the medicine, its normal uses and side effects. However, most medicines have more than one effect on the body and for many years, palliative care (hospice) doctors have found that certain medicines are safe and effective for the treatment of symptoms **other** than those specified by the medicine's manufacturer and there is now plenty of experience to confirm such use.

We are providing you with this extra information to inform you of the reason(s) why you are taking this medicine and to highlight any other information. This should be read in conjunction with the **attached** manufacturer's patient information leaflet.

Clonazepam

In palliative care, clonazepam is sometimes prescribed for the relief of the painful sensations caused by nerve pressure. Doctors call this 'neuropathic pain'. Clonazepam is often prescribed in addition to other commonly prescribed pain killers.

In palliative care, clonazepam is also sometimes prescribed to relieve anxiety and agitation.

Frequently asked questions

Q. What form(s) of this medicine are there and how is it usually taken?

- Clonazepam is available in tablet, liquid and injection (a UK unlicensed medicine) form.
- You may disperse the tablets in a little water before taking if you prefer.
- The daily dose is normally taken at bedtime and ranges from 250mcg to 2mg daily.
- The daily dose may also be given via a syringe driver over 24 hours (sub-cutaneous pump).

NB Always follow the dose indicated on the label or advised by a healthcare professional.

Q. What are the most common side effects?

- You may experience drowsiness and fatigue but these effects usually pass with continued treatment and are minimised by starting with low doses and taking the daily dose at bed time.

Further information

If you have any questions about any of the medicines you have been prescribed or have any problems with side effects, please speak to one of the following:

St Catherine's Hospice
Telephone: 01293 447333

St Catherine's Hospice Pharmacist
Telephone: 01293 535000