



Association for Palliative Medicine

Date

Dear Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Re: Access to unlicensed palliative care 'special' medication for patient:

.....

Medication name, form and dose:

.....

Further to the consultation earlier, I have prescribed / recommended the above unlicensed palliative care 'special' for your / this patient's condition

.....

for management of the following symptom / clinical issue:

.....

If you / your patient has difficulty obtaining this particular product at your local pharmacy please show the Pharmacist this letter and the links to information about 'specials' manufacturers below, prepared on behalf of the Association for Palliative Medicine, courtesy of the British National Formulary.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you encounter any issues.

Yours sincerely,

.....
Prescriber Name

.....
Prescriber signature

.....
GMC / NMC

.....
Hospital / Clinic / Service

Useful web pages:

www.bnf.org; www.psnc.org.uk; www.rpharms.com/pharmacy-practice-resource/specials.asp

Link to the BNF specials manufacturer's list:

<https://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/bnf/current/PHP101219-special-order-manufacturers.htm>.

Patients: please remember to allow sufficient time to get repeat prescriptions from your General Practitioner. You can then take the prescription to your chosen pharmacy, but please allow some time for the medicine to be ordered.

Unlicensed medicines are available from 'special-order' manufacturers and specialist-importing companies; the MHRA maintains a register of these companies at tinyurl.com/cdslke.

Licensed hospital manufacturing units also manufacture 'special-order' products as unlicensed medicines, the principal NHS units are listed below. A database (*Pro-File*; www.pro-file.nhs.uk) provides information on medicines manufactured in the NHS; access is restricted to NHS pharmacy staff.

The Association of Pharmaceutical Specials Manufacturers may also be able to provide further information about commercial companies (www.apsm-uk.com).

If you continue to encounter difficulty obtaining your medication please contact the appropriate NHS complaints service:

www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-your-mp/contacting-your-mp/

www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/complaint

www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/contactus/complaint/

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/make-complaint-against-health-service

www.nhsinform.co.uk/rights/usingnhs/feedbackandcomplaints/fandcdetails/