

Hospital pharmacy time critical Parkinson's medication guide

Person with Parkinson's admitted to hospital/emergency department

- Ensure patients are prioritised for accurate medicines reconciliation
- Check medications have been prescribed correctly - including correct timings
- Avoid medications that worsen Parkinson's

Can the patient take their medication orally?

Yes

Are the correct medications available on the ward / via the patient's supply? **Please note:** zero tolerance for "drugs unavailable".

No

- Ensure all staff are aware of the steps to follow when Parkinson's medication is required urgently (including during out of hours).
- Ensure pharmacy stocks have appropriate levels of Parkinson's medication.
- Ensure emergency cupboards/ specific wards stock full supply of all Parkinson's medicines.
- Consider using the patient's own medication (including compliance aids) as per local guidance.

Yes

Consider the option of self-administration as per local guidance.

People with Parkinson's receive their medication on time, correctly, every time.

Please note: zero tolerance for medicines administered more than 30 mins after the prescribed time.

Ensure correct timings are clearly displayed on medication labels, discharge and transfer letters etc.

No

Is there local guidance on the steps to take for people with Parkinson's with unsafe swallow or nil by mouth?

Yes

Implement local guidance. Ensure ward staff are aware of where the guidance can be found.

No

- **Immediate action:** refer to the 'Screening swallowing problems in Parkinson's' guide.



- **To prevent future issues:** consider developing local guidance and make sure ward staff are aware of where the guidance can be found.

About this guide

This draft guide has been developed by healthcare professionals in the Parkinson's Excellence Network to support hospital pharmacy staff in implementing time critical Parkinson's medication management.

This guide was last reviewed in October 2023. Please visit the Excellence Network website to check for revisions and updates at parkinsons.org.uk/time-critical-medication-resources

For further information, training and resources please scan the QR code here:

