



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Access to End of Life Care Medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic

Access to palliative care medication has been identified by professionals as one of the biggest concerns when caring for terminally ill patients and consequently compromises the delivery of good End of Life (EoL) care. When a patient is to receive EoL care in the community, it is important that the appropriate medicines that may be required to support that patient's symptom control are readily available, both in and out of normal hours.

The below process outlines how to access these medicines. It is important that everyone across the healthcare team supports this process and that in general, no additional stocks are held in locations other than those described below.

In Hours: Between 09:00 & 18:00 Monday to Friday

1. Community Pharmacy Network

The first method of supply for EoL care medicines should remain a community pharmacy or the patient's registered dispensing practice. Clinicians are encouraged to phone community pharmacies before writing a prescription to confirm the choice and quantity of stock available.

2. End of Life COVID-19 Medicines Service*

If the required medicines cannot be obtained from community pharmacies or the patient's doctor (where the doctor provides a dispensing service) in a timely manner, a "Just in time emergency medication pack" (JEMP) may be accessed via the End of Life COVID-19 Medicines Service. This service provides a limited supply of EoL medicines to allow time for an ongoing supply to be secured. The service does not provide large quantities of medication and is not for replenishing stock for patients homes.

Details of the service are on the AWTTTC website: <https://www.awttc.org/covid-19-eol-medicines-service> and can be accessed by telephoning **0300 123 4092**

****Please note End of Life COVID-19 Medicines Service should only be used for EoL medicines supply where accessing Local Health Board arrangements is not feasible.***

Out of Hours: Between 18:00-09:00 Monday to Friday, all day Saturday and Sunday

1. End of Life COVID-19 Medicines Service**

If a clinician visiting a patient in the out of hours period does not have a supply of EoL medicines available (i.e. from stock in the 'doctor's bag' or GP OOH centre) they should access a "Just in time emergency medication pack" (JEMP) via the End of Life COVID-19 Medicines Service. Where necessary, arrangements should be made urgently for ongoing supplies from a community pharmacy.

Details of the service are on the AWTTTC website: <https://www.awttc.org/covid-19-eol-medicines-service> and can be accessed by telephoning **0300 123 4092** (this phone line is available 24/7 if calling between 22:00 and 08:00 choose option 3).

*****Please note End of Life COVID-19 Medicines Service should only be used for EoL medicines supply where accessing Local Health Board arrangements is not feasible.***