

Information Sheet

Medication Guidelines for Patients and Families

Unfortunately there are some medicines (both tablets and injection), used to control pain and other symptoms that are also desired by drug users. We do not wish to alarm you or put you off using these medicines but wish to make the following suggestions.

If you would like more information, please feel free to discuss this with your Care Coordinator.

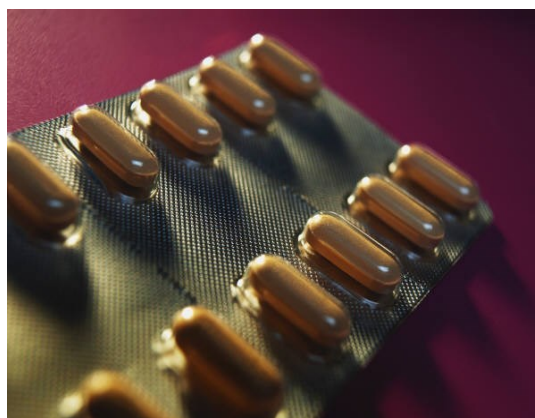
- Keep all medicines secure, out of sight and away from children.
- We recommend you be discreet about the medicines you are using and perhaps use general terms such as "mild" or "strong" painkillers, rather than "Morphine tablets".
- For reasons of staff safety, it is policy that Nelson Tasman Hospice nurses do not carry controlled medicines (e.g. Morphine, Oxycodone, Methadone, Fentanyl etc.), except in urgent situations where they may collect some medicine to set up a syringe pump for example.

We would appreciate your assistance with this by asking if you could either:

- Collect or arrange for the collection of your medicines, or
- Arrange for the chemist to deliver your medicines

Likewise, unused medicines need to be returned to the chemist.

- ***Injectable Medicine*** - A combination-lock briefcase will be provided for you to store these. Staff are required to count controlled and restricted medicines. Authorities must be advised of any discrepancy in the medicine count.
- The nurses will provide yellow 'sharps' containers for used needles, ampoules and syringes. The nurses will dispose of these when full.



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