

## Which drugs should not be ordered early?

You will know that many patients ask for their medication to be prescribed earlier than they should have it. Some of these are valid reasons e.g. patients going on holiday. However, we need to be cautious of some medication that should not be given early without a valid reason or maybe without a GP involved. These could be drugs that can be abused. It could also be an indication that their condition is not being controlled and it would be advisable to have a review.

You may need to refer to the 'quantities on prescription' guide to check that the patient is actually ordering early or whether the repeat template has been set up incorrectly (depends on which clinical system is used).

Drugs	Examples	Reasons
Opioids	Morphine (Zomorph / MST / Morphgesic) Oxycodone (OxyContin / OxyNorm/ Longtec/Shortec) Fentanyl Buprenorphine Codeine products	These are Controlled Drugs and can be abused. If the patient is ordering too early, refer to a GP
Sleeping tablets	Temazepam Zopiclone Nitrazepam	Some of these are Controlled Drugs and can be abused. If the patient is ordering too early, refer to a GP
Drugs for anxiety	Diazepam Lorazepam	Some of these are Controlled Drugs and can be abused. If the patient is ordering too early, refer to a GP
Triptans	Sumatriptan Rizatriptan Naratriptan Frovatriptan	This could indicate uncontrolled migraines or underlying problems that need to be investigated – refer to a GP. NB patients should not routinely have more than 12 triptans in 4 weeks although many patients will use more than this. It is worth discussing this with the GPs.
Inhalers	Salbutamol / Ventolin  Terbutaline/Bricanyl	These are 'relievers' which means that patients use them generally when they are out of breath. If patients are using too much, it could indicate worsening condition. As these may be required, it would be better to issue but to flag to a GP.
Insulin	Lantus/ Levemir/ Humalog/ NovoMix / Insuman	Sometimes it is not easy to spot early ordering, request help from GP or Diabetes Nurse if too frequent ordering becomes apparent. A specific chart is available on website. Too frequent ordering may indicate difficulties using, confusion... Insulin has a short expiry date which can lead to waste if patient stockpiles