#### Unlicensed medicines

Unlicensed medicines are not always available from GPs or community pharmacies (local chemists). If you require further supplies, please ask your hospital pharmacist for advice.

#### **Useful contact details**

Dedicated Patient Helpline
01438 286150

Monday to Friday, 2pm - 4pm or email: medinfo.enhtr@nhs.net

Pharmacy Department Lister Hospital Coreys Mill Lane Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 4AB

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You can request this information in a different format or another language.



## **Patient Information**

**Unlicensed Medicines** 

Pharmacy Department



#### Introduction

Most medicines prescribed in this country are approved for use by the government's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. This leaflet is intended to explain why doctors may sometimes prescribe treatments that are used outside this approval process.

#### You have been given a supply of:

Currently, this product does not have a full UK Pharmaceutical Product Licence. Medicines are often used in this way. This can be for many reasons, for example:

- it is awaiting the granting of a UK licence from the government;
- is being tested in a clinical trial;
- the usage of medicine is low and therefore, it is not economic for the makers to send the product for approval or it would be difficult to get enough patients to perform a clinical trial, or
- it has been withdrawn from the UK market.

However, please be reassured that your doctor and pharmacist have thought very carefully about selecting the best medicine for you.

If you have any concerns regarding this medicine, please contact the pharmacy department by calling the Patient Helpline (contact details are on the back cover of this leaflet).

### How can I get more information?

Please talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any worries or concerns about:

- any medicine,
- information you have been given with the medicine,

#### or

- you are confused or not sure about the information or directions that you have been given,
- you just want more information.

Your doctor and pharmacist have lots of knowledge and experience with medicines and will be pleased to answer your questions.

# What if I am unhappy about taking/using a 'special' treatment?

If you have any concerns at all, please talk it over with your doctor or pharmacist. Tell them what you are worried about and why. They can:

- give you more information about the treatment,
- explain why it is believed to be the most suitable,
- discuss other treatments that may be available.

Nobody can force you to take or use any treatment that you do not want.