

Time critical medication: 10 recommendations for your hospital

1. Parkinson's medication is time critical medication. Time critical medications must be given within 30 minutes of when they are due, highlighted as a risk to patient safety and added to every hospital risk register. Compliance is audited and any dose over 30 minutes reported as an adverse event.
 - [2023 Every Minute Counts report](#)
 - [NICE quality statement](#)
2. All staff within hospitals are made aware of time critical medication. Make this 4 minute video [Time Matters : It's Critical](#) mandatory viewing for all staff.
3. Hospitals identify which staff are to undertake further Parkinson's medication training. Recommended online training courses are available in the Parkinson's Excellence Network's learning hub:
 - [Parkinson's UK 15 minute educational video](#)
 - [Parkinson's UK Medication educational module produced by Lancashire Teaching Hospitals](#)
 - [Parkinson's medication for staff who don't administer medications](#)
4. Hospitals develop, maintain and update a self-administration policy for those patients who can administer their own medication. The Policy should be reviewed regularly. Read the Parkinson's UK self administration [guide for hospital staff](#). See further information on page 3.
5. Hospitals identify all patients on time critical medication when they arrive in the Emergency Department (ED) or through an elective or emergency admissions unit. Find out about the [Royal College of Emergency Medicine Time Critical Medications Quality Improvement project](#).

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6. EDs and admissions units develop and update an agreed list of time critical medication visible to patients when they arrive so they feel empowered to inform staff that they take time critical medication. Download the [Parkinson's UK poster](#). For elective admissions, people with Parkinson's will have prepared themselves. [Parkinson's UK Guidance](#).
7. Hospitals have a designated pharmacist who is responsible for ordering and stocking the time critical medication in the ED and on appropriate admissions units and wards to ensure they are always available.
8. Where appropriate the prescribing of a patient's time critical medication should reflect their normal daily schedule and should continue during the full admission period. Hospital systems, including [electronic prescribing](#) where available, should be maximised to support this.
9. Ensure that hospitals have a Standard Operating Procedure / guideline for all time critical medication, including those patients who are nil by mouth (NBM) or require a nasogastric (NG) tube. This should signpost to one of the [NBM medication calculators](#).
10. Ensure hospitals devise and implement a system so that staff can administer all time critical medication outside of the normal medication rounds if self-administration is not appropriate. See a [successful example from Leeds Hospitals](#) and [resources available from Parkinson's UK](#).

About the 10 recommendations

These recommendations have been developed by the Healthcare Professionals with Parkinson's group in collaboration with the Parkinson's Excellence Network to support health professionals in implementing time critical medications management.

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For further information please contact: Jean Almond, Programme Manager - Time Critical Medication, Parkinson's UK by email at jalmond@parkinsons.org.uk or by phone at 020 7963 9365.

Further resources available at

www.parkinsons.org.uk/time-critical-medication-resources

Medicines Information centres

Northern Ireland

Regional Medicines Advice Service (UKMi Executive member)

Knockbracken Healthcare Park

Saintfield Road

Belfast

BT8 8BH

Tel: 028 950 40558

Email: medicineinfo@belfasttrust.hscni.net

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

Ulster Hospital

Dundonald

BT16 1RH

Tel: 028 9056 1445 or 028 9048 4511 (ext. 10220)

Email: medicines.information@setrust.hscni.net

Southern Health & Social Care Trust

Craigavon Area Hospital

68 Lurgan Road

Portadown

Co. Armagh

BT63 5QQ

Tel: 028 3756 3893/3890

Email: medicinesinfo.cah@southerntrust.hscni.net

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Northern Health & Social Care Trust

Antrim Area Hospital

45 Bush Road

Antrim

BT41 2RL

Tel: 028 9442 4556 (ext. 4763)

Email: medicines.info@northerntrust.hscni.net

Western Health & Care Social Trust

Altnagelvin Area Hospital

Glenshane Road

Londonderry

BT47 6SB

Tel: 028 7161 1462 or 028 7134 5171 (ext. 213756)

Email: altnagelvin.medinfo@westerntrust.hscni.net