

MEDICATION SAFETY ALERT

Medication safety alerts are published to raise awareness of risks with medicines. Their aim is to minimise harm to patients by promoting the safe use of medicines and reducing the risk of errors.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS HALOPERIDOL FOR PALLIATIVE CARE

There is a manufacturing problem with haloperidol injection which may affect availability.

Recommendations

- Prescribers should continue to prescribe haloperidol for palliative care use, unless advised that stock is unavailable
- For initial prn use, prescribers should request quantity as 5 ampoules, to conserve stock
- Where advised that haloperidol is unavailable generic Levomepromazine may be prescribed
(initial dose recommended is 6.25mg sc 12 hrly prn and titrate, increased frequency may be initiated in secondary care)

Note: Levomepromazine is more sedating than haloperidol. If drowsiness is an issue, dose can be reduced and/or alternative antiemetic prescribed.
- For patients already prescribed haloperidol – discuss with pharmacy team or palliative care team

For further help contact specialist teams

- Hull (CHCP CIC) 01482 335883
- East Riding (HFT) 01377 208758
- Hull & East Yorkshire Hospital 01482 461146
- Dove House Hospice 01482 785700