

## Anticipatory drug prescribing

Here is a list of some of the commonly prescribed injectable medication for 'just in case', including the ampoule sizes. Most injectables come in boxes of 5 or 10 ampoules so choose a quantity that is appropriate for the doses you are prescribing.

As a general rule, we would suggest prescribing **3 days** for something that is '**just in case**'. The table below includes a quantity suggestion for 'just in case' use.

Don't forget '**water for injection**' which is used to make up a syringe driver. 20 x 10ml ampoules would be a good start.

On the prescription you will need to state the drug, dosage form, dose and the quantity you want dispensed. For controlled drugs, the total quantity of dose units is required in words and figures e.g. please supply Ten (10) x 10mg ampoules.

Drug	Controlled?	Dosage form	Quantity suggestion for 'just in case' use
Diamorphine (powder for reconstitution)	Yes	5mg, 10mg, 100mg and 500mg ampoules	5 x 10mg amps
Midazolam	Yes	10mg / 2ml ampoules	5 x 10mg amps
Haloperidol	No	5mg / ml ampoules	5 x 5mg amps
Hyoscine Hydro Bromide	No	600mcg / ml ampoules	5 x 600mcg amps
Hyoscine Butyl Bromide	No	20mg / ml ampoules	10 x 20mg amps
Oxycodone	Yes	10mg / ml and 50mg / ml ampoules	Normally only used if patient already on it
Metoclopramide	No	10mg / ml ampoules	10 x 10mg amps
Levomepromazine (dilute with N/Saline not water)	No	25mg / ml ampoules	5 x 25mg amps
Cyclizine	No	50mg / ml ampoules	10 x 50mg amps

Most of these medications are very cheap (many are less than £1 per ampoule) so, expense needn't been a major consideration. The Oxycodone 50mg / ml injection is the one exception (£14 per ampoule) and can be hard to source.