

# Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

## Intranasal Diamorphine Patient Information Leaflet

This leaflet contains information about intranasal diamorphine. Please read it carefully. If there is anything that you do not understand, or if you have any questions, please ask your doctor.

### **What is intranasal diamorphine?**

Diamorphine is a well-established strong pain medicine. It is a fast acting pain medicine that we are able to give your child in a pain-free way, as a small amount of liquid that is dripped into the nose. Your doctor has given you this leaflet because diamorphine is not licensed for administration by this route, although it is used in this manner in many different hospitals in the UK. An information leaflet produced by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, which gives more information on unlicensed medicines and the use of medicines in children is available in the department on request.

### **What is intranasal diamorphine used for?**

Intranasal diamorphine is used to quickly control acute severe pain, such as that caused by broken bones and burns.

### **How is intranasal diamorphine given?**

A qualified doctor or nurse will drip a small amount of the medicine into your child's nose.

### **When will intranasal diamorphine not be given?**

Intranasal diamorphine will not be given if your child has already received any other strong pain medicine or any medicine that may make your child sleepy.

### **Are there any side effects?**

The common side effects seen with diamorphine are nausea or vomiting, and it may make your child sleepy. You will be given an advice leaflet about caring for your child after they have received this medicine.

### **Will it affect my child's other medicines?**

Certain medicines may react with diamorphine to make your child too sleepy. Intranasal diamorphine may not be used if your child is taking these medicines. Such medicines include:

- Strong pain killers such as morphine
- Sedatives (medicines to help your child sleep)
- Some anti-histamines (medicines to relieve itching or hay fever)

Please remember to tell the doctor if your child is taking any of these medicines.

### **Will any precautions have to be taken to enable my child to have this painkiller?**

Your doctor will check with you that your child is not taking any medicines which would react with the intranasal diamorphine before giving the medicine to your child.

You and your child will have to stay in hospital for a short time after the diamorphine has been given to make sure that your child is not too sleepy to go home.

When you are allowed to go home, you must take an advice sheet with you to help you care for your child safely.

### **Why do I need to give my consent?**

You need to give your consent to say that you have received information about this drug, and understand that it is being given by an unlicensed route. You also need to give consent to say that you have read this information and have understood it, and are happy for the medicine to be given to your child. If you have any questions, please ask your doctor.

### **How can I find out more?**

Contact your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Written by: Children's Pain Service

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