

Buccal Midazolam for Palliative Patients

Patient Information

Prepared for _____

Date _____

Caregivers Guide

Your Doctor has prescribed the person you are caring for a preparation of buccal midazolam for use in an emergency. ('Buccal' means the lining of the cheek, on the inside of the mouth).

- Midazolam comes in differing strengths, **the plastic ampoules your doctor prescribed contain 15mg of midazolam in 3 millilitres.**

When do I use it?

This section will be completed by your doctor

Give the person you are caring for buccal midazolam if:

- There is a seizure that lasts more than **5 minutes, or**
- Repeated shorter seizures without waking up between the seizures, **or**

Another emergency, such as: _____

Repeat after no less than: _____

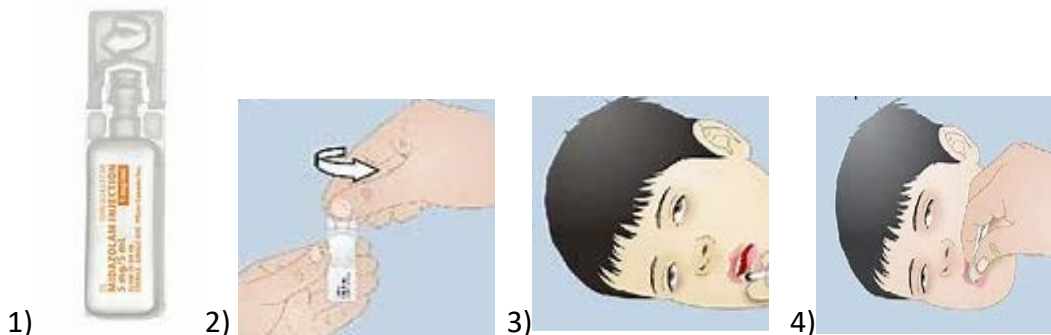
Call for help if: _____

_____ Phone No: _____

Dr _____ Date _____

What will I need to do?

Visual instructions



Written instructions

- 1) Check you are giving an ampoule of **15mg Midazolam**.
- 2) Twist open the top of the midazolam ampoule (see picture)
- 3) Gently tilt their head to the side (see picture)
- 4) Insert the ampoule between the inside of the lower cheek and the teeth (see picture)
- 5) Gently squeeze the ampoule until it is empty (over 30-60 seconds)
- 6) Discard any unused medication safely. Once the seal is broken, the midazolam must be used immediately or discarded.
- 7) It is important that you **write down** what time you used the midazolam and how many ampoules of midazolam you have given and when. If everything settles, call your Doctor or Nurse the next day to advise of the event
- 8) If the person you are caring for has another event, you may give a second dose of midazolam **1 hour after** the first dose was given. **No more than two doses** of midazolam should be given within 24 hours without first seeking advice from a doctor or a nurse

Possible side effects

- Drowsiness. Many people are drowsy after having midazolam. This effect wears off quickly. If drowsiness persists for more than two hours, seek medical advice.
- Tiredness, weakness, headache
- Irritation
- Altered mood and balance (giggly, hyperactivity, unsteady on feet)

Background information

Midazolam is a benzodiazepine. It is a short acting sedative that can be used for emergency treatment. It does not need to be swallowed, as it is absorbed directly from the inside lining of the cheeks (the buccal mucosa.) It does not act immediately but takes 5 - 10 minutes to be absorbed and reach the maximum effect on the brain.

Midazolam needs to be stored at normal room temperature (below 25°C), protected from light (in a box or wrapped in foil), and locked away out of the reach of children. You may not need to use midazolam very often, so please check the expiry date of the product periodically (printed on the ampoule).

Midazolam ampoules are labelled for slow IV or IM injection but are also suitable for buccal administration.

Midazolam needs to travel where the person you are caring for goes, in case of an event when away from home.

Midazolam is not currently registered for the treatment of seizures or other palliative care emergencies by mouth in New Zealand. However, it is now being widely used throughout the world for this purpose. We believe it is safe, though there are small risks associated with the use of the drug. We believe that use of midazolam in the way we are recommending has a much lower risk than allowing an emergency situation to continue unnecessarily.

For more information about:

- hospital and specialist services, go to www.cdhb.health.nz
- your health and medication, go to www.healthinfo.org.nz