Can I take my other tablets too?

No. At present this policy only applies to certain time-critical Parkinson's medications.

No other tablets should be kept with you or self-administered. This helps avoid mix-ups or medication errors.

There may be limited exceptions, which your admitting doctor can discuss with you.

Where do I store my Parkinson's tablets?

In the ED: please keep your medication with you and your valuables (for example in your bag or pocket).

On a ward: please keep your medication in your bedside locker.

Will I be able to self administer my Parkinson's medication for my whole stay?

Ideally yes. If you run out of the Parkinson's medication you brought with you, we will supply what you need until you are discharged. Your nurse will be able to arrange this with pharmacy.

For Phase 2 of this pilot, self-administration is only available in the Emergency Department and selected wards. If you move to a ward not included in the pilot, your medication will be given by staff. If your condition changes, we may pause self-administration until it is safe to resume.

Scan QR for full details

Can a family member or carer administer medication?

Yes, but while you are in the ED only and only if you meet the eligibility criteria.

If the person supporting you leaves the ED, please tell the nurse so we can continue administering medication. Family members and carers cannot administer medication on inpatient wards.

Your safety and care

Even if you are self-administering your Parkinson's medication, your care remains under the oversight of your hospital team.

If you're coming to hospital and want to self-administer your Parkinson's medication:

- Bring your Parkinson's medication with you in its original or pharmacy packaging
- Tell staff when you arrive that you have Parkinson's.
- Ask staff about self-administration of medication (SAM).

Name of Department: Emergency Department
Direct telephone number: 01-221 4504
Active date:
Version number: 1
Q-Pulse Ref. number:
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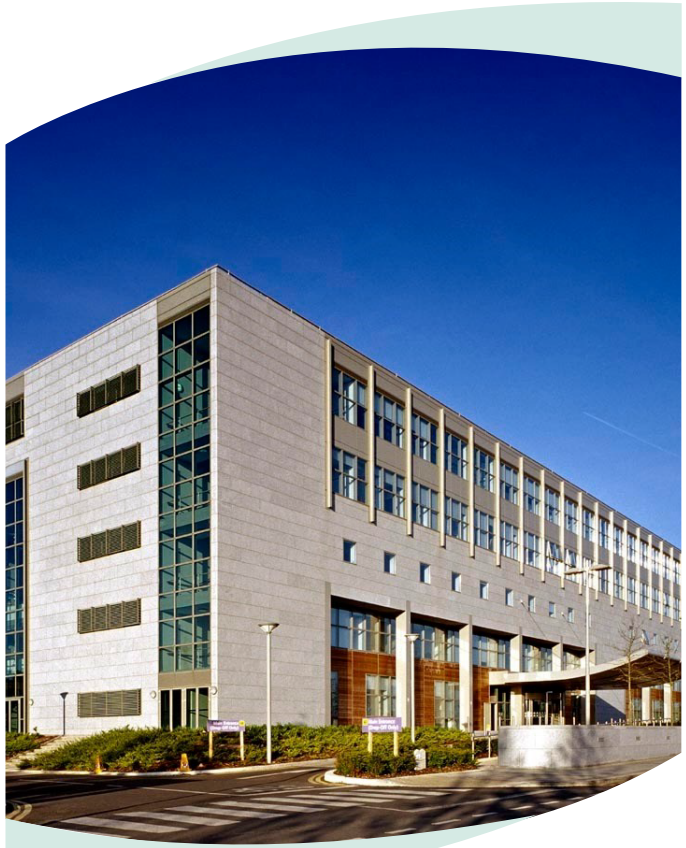
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Taking my own Parkinson's Medication while in hospital



Centred **on You**

Introduction

We know that taking your Parkinson's medication on time, every time is essential for managing your symptoms and helping you feel your best.

Sometimes, even though we try our best, your medication may be delayed or a dose could be missed, particularly in a busy Emergency Department (ED) setting.

To reduce this risk, SVUH is offering some people with Parkinson's the option to keep and take their own time-critical Parkinson's medication while in hospital, once it is safe to do so. This is called self-administration of medication (SAM).

This leaflet explains how SAM works and what to expect when you arrive. Our goal is to make your time in hospital as safe and comfortable as possible.

If you have any questions at any stage, please ask a member of staff. We are here to help.

Can I take part?

We aim to screen every person with Parkinson's who comes to our Emergency Department (ED) or is admitted to the hospital to see if self-administration is safe for them. Some people may not be well enough or it may not be safe for them to take their own medication.

For example, you may not be able to take part if you are very drowsy, have difficulty swallowing or breathing, have a severe infection (sepsis), have had a stroke or head injury, have severe vomiting or a bowel blockage or if you are confused or unable to make decisions safely.



You may also not be able to take part if you are attending due to overdose, a mental health crisis or if you are admitted specifically so your Parkinson's medication can be adjusted.

Self-administration is not permitted in certain areas such as the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), operating theatres or Elm Mount units.

Do I have to take part?

No, taking part is optional. You will be asked a few short screening questions but if you prefer the hospital team to administer your medication, we are happy to do this. Just let us know what approach you are most comfortable with.

What will the screening questions ask?

Examples include:

- Do you normally take your Parkinson's medication at home?
- Can you tell us which Parkinson's medications you take and when?
- Do you have any problems that would prevent you from taking part (such as those listed above)?

What do I need to do?

1. Tell staff when you arrive
When you check in at the ED reception and again when you meet the triage nurse, tell them you have Parkinson's and would like to self-administer your medication if possible.

If you are being admitted to the hospital from clinic, the day ward or the admissions office, also tell the admitting nurse and doctor.

2. Bring your Parkinson's medication with you
To take part in this pilot, you must bring your own Parkinson's medication to hospital.

Your medication must be in its original packaging or a pharmacy-labelled container showing your name, the medication name and strength. It must also be within its expiry date and in good condition.

Important:
Please do not take your Parkinson's medication until a nurse has confirmed that you are suitable for self-administration and this has been documented.

This is to ensure your care is safe and your medication record is accurate.



If your medication is due and you have not yet been screened, please tell staff immediately.

All my tablets are in a dosette box/blister pack. Can I use this?

Unfortunately, no. People who use dosette boxes or blister packs cannot take part, even if they only want to self-administer their Parkinson's medication. This is because staff cannot safely verify the medication name, strength and expiry date once it has been removed from the original packaging.