Time Critical MEDICINES

Your questions answered

Guidance on medicine transfer and common queries

As part of Medicines Safety Week 2026, we are raising awareness of time critical medicines and the importance of ensuring patients' medicines accompany them to hospital where appropriate.

The campaign includes a staff and patient educational film, along with other resources, to highlight that patients having their medicines with them can help healthcare teams continue their treatment safely and reduce delays in them receiving important medicines. This is especially important for any time critical medicines, where delayed or missed doses can have a significant impact on their health and wellbeing.



Medicines and transfer
What staff need to know

Does this apply to all medicines?



Yes, the guidance applies to all medicines, although the campaign focuses particularly on Time Critical Medicines.

What about controlled drugs?



Staff should continue to follow local policies regarding controlled drugs.

What about medicines from care homes?



Staff should follow local arrangements relating to transfer of patient medicines from care settings.

What if an organisation does not use green medicine bags?



The resources have been developed for national use and direct organisations to follow their own local procedures for medicines transfer and storage.

Using the campiagn resources
Where and how the films and posters can be used

Can other ambulance services use the videos and posters?

Yes, they have been developed for national use.



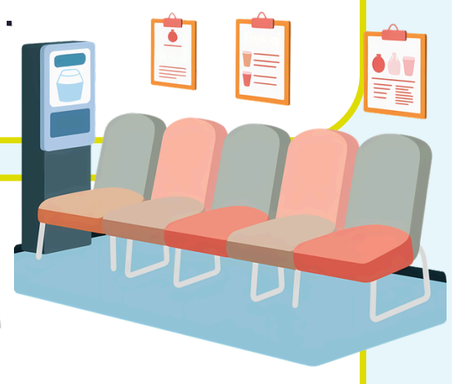
Is the staff video suitable for clinicians working in EDs?



Yes, the video was produced collaboratively with and Emergency Department to promote transfer of medicines.

Is the patient video suitable for hospital patient waiting areas, e.g. outpatient clinics, Emergency Depatments and pharmacy?

Yes, the patient video encourages patients to take their medicines into hospital with them.



Is the patient video suitable for GP practice waiting areas?

Yes, the patient video encourages patients to take their medicines into hospital with them.