

## Patient information factsheet

# Free of charge (FOC) medicines schemes

We have given you this factsheet because your consultant has enrolled you onto a free of charge (FOC) medicines scheme. It explains what FOC medicines schemes are and what the ordering process at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHS) involves. We hope it helps to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us using the details at the end of this factsheet.

### What are free of charge (FOC) medicines schemes?

FOC medicines schemes (sometimes called 'compassionate use schemes') are when UK licensed or unlicensed medicines are provided free of charge by a pharmaceutical company. These medicines are prescribed for people who fit certain criteria to receive treatment under one of the FOC medicines schemes.

The medicines used in these schemes are not kept as standard stock in our hospital, so we have to order them on an individual basis directly from the pharmaceutical company as and when needed.

### What is the ordering process for FOC medicines?

The ordering process for FOC medicines is complex and involves multiple healthcare professionals. To ensure you don't run out of your medicine, it is important that you contact our UHS inpatient pharmacy main dispensary (by phone or email) using the details at the end of this factsheet at least **14 days** before your medicine supply is due to run out. When you contact us, please provide us with your **name**, **date of birth** and **hospital number**.

If you need to order a prescription that doesn't contain FOC medicines, this will be processed by our **outpatient pharmacy** (in the main reception of Southampton General Hospital).

If you are unsure where to collect your prescription from, please contact us before coming into hospital.

### Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your FOC medicines, please contact us.

UHS inpatient pharmacy main dispensary

Telephone: **023 8120 4078** (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 6pm and weekends, 9.30am to 4pm)

Email: [pharmacymaindispensary@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:pharmacymaindispensary@uhs.nhs.uk)

UPL outpatient pharmacy

Email: [uploncology@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:uploncology@uhs.nhs.uk)

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