Medicines for the doctor’s bag
Guidance for the use of medicines during normal working hours

These updated recommendations reflect current evidence and practice, and are in line with the Lothian Joint Formulary¹, the Lothian Unscheduled Care Service stock list, and key references¹².

Provision of a bag with a uniform set of core drugs would reduce clinical risk and aid doctors who work between different practices. Lothian practices are encouraged to hold a bag containing these medicines for use by ‘non-principals’. These medicines are intended for immediate use during usual community pharmacy opening times.

“There is still a need for some GPs to carry a range of medicines for use in acute situations when on home visits. What to include in the GP’s bag is determined by the medical conditions likely to be met; medicines the GP is confident and competent to use; storage requirements and shelf-lives of drugs; ambulance paramedic cover and the proximity of the nearest hospital.”¹²

1 Gastro-intestinal
- Oral rehydration therapy (Dioralyte®) sachets
- Glycerol 4g suppositories

2 Cardiovascular
- Aspirin 300mg dispersible tablets
- Furosemide 40mg tablets & 20mg/2mL injection
- Glycerol trinitrate 400micrograms sublingual spray

3 Respiratory
- Adrenaline (epinephrine) 1mg/1mL (1 in 1,000) injection
- Chlorphenamine 10mg/1mL injection
- Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg injection
- Salbutamol 100micrograms inhaler
- Volumatic® spacer device
- Prednisolone 5mg tablets

4 Central Nervous System
- Cyclizine 50mg/1mL injection
- Metoclopramide 10mg/2mL injection

Moderate pain
- Co-codamol 30mg/500mg tablets

Severe pain
- Morphine sulfate 10mg/1mL injection

Reversal of opioid-induced respiratory depression
- Naloxone 400micrograms/1mL injection

Status epilepticus
- Diazepam 5mg/2.5mL (5mg) rectal solution tubes
- Midazolam oromucosal (buccal) solution 10mg/1mL (Epistatus®, unlicensed ‘special’)

5 Infections
- Benzylpenicillin 600mg injection
- Cefotaxime 1g injection

6 Endocrine
- Glucagon 1mg injection
- GlucoGel® containing glucose 400mg/1g gel

10 Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- Diclofenac sodium 25mg/1mL injection

Diluent
- Water for injection 2mL and 10mL

References
3. Lothian Joint Formulary www.ljf.scot.nhs.uk