

## Breast Imaging Department

# Information for patients receiving unlicensed medicines during a breast biopsy

In the UK, most medicines are “licensed,” but some are not. This leaflet explains why medicines are licensed and unlicensed.

Due to National shortages of local anaesthetics commonly used for breast biopsies, a Specialist Patient Safety Pharmacist and the Trust have approved a safe alternative anaesthetic. You have been given this leaflet because the alternative anaesthetic is not licensed.

### Why are medicines “licensed”?

The makers of medicines must have Marketing Authorisation from the Government if they want to sell their medicines in the UK.

They show the Government’s Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) that:

- their medicine works for the illness to be treated
- outlines the expected side effects
- proves that it has been made to a high standard

### Why am I being given an unlicensed medicine?

A doctor has prescribed an unlicensed medicine because no suitable, licensed alternative is currently available due to National Shortages. No



## Patient Information

medicine is completely free of side effects, your doctor will carefully consider the risks and benefits with you before prescribing it. We want to reassure you that we thought very carefully about the best medicine for you

### **Should I be worried about taking this medicine?**

If you are still worried about the safety of this medicine, please inform the doctor who is looking after you during your visit to the Breast Unit. The doctor will talk to you about your concerns before proceeding.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 7200 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

### **Did we get it right?**

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



#### **Document History**

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