



RCEM
Royal College
of Emergency
Medicine

Safety Flash

November 2023

Time critical medications



Movement disorders—Parkinson's / myasthenia medication

Immunomodulators including HIV meds

Sugar—diabetes medication

Steroids—Addison's & adrenal insufficiency

Epilepsy—anticonvulsants

DOACs & warfarin

Patient doesn't have their own meds with them, or are nil by mouth? Use the **[OPTIMAL Calculator](#)** to help you convert Parkinson's medications.

A MISSED dose can harm your patients!

All patients should have time critical medications prescribed and administered at their usual time whilst in the ED

EDs should display a poster at reception/triage that empowers patients to inform staff if they take any time-critical medications.

Download a copy of the UKCPA patient-facing poster via the QR code:



Hospitals should use Internal Professional Standards to ensure minimal delays between ED referral and specialty review (incl. prescribing of TCM)

Time critical medicines should be prescribed for patients at least up to the time of **[referral for speciality admission](#)**.

There should be an ED pharmacy service that is responsible for managing medicines availability and governance.

RCEM will be running a Quality Improvement Project (QIP) in November 2023 on time critical medications in the ED.

For Safety Alerts and RCEM issued Safety Flashes see:

<https://rcem.ac.uk/safety-3/>