

Using medicines for persistent pain

Think about whether your medicines help you to manage your persistent pain.

This tool may help you decide about using medicines in better ways for you.

Answer the questions below to help you think and decide.

How much do your medicines relieve your pain at present?

Circle the amount that is closest to your experience

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
(No pain relief) (Completely pain free)

Do you have side effects with your current medicines?

Circle yes or no

YES

NO

If yes, what are they?

Circle all the side effects you experience

Concentration difficulties Constipation Sickness Dizziness Weight gain
Hallucinations Depression/low mood Rashes Blurred vision Dry mouth
Sexual difficulties Any other side effects?

Do you get as much pain relief with your medicines now, compared to when you started them?

Circle yes or no

YES

NO

Do you ever experience any of the following symptoms e.g. if you miss a dose or try to reduce your medicines?

Circle all the symptoms you experience

Shaking Tremors Nausea Vomiting Diarrhoea Itching Aching muscles

Do medicines help in a flare-up of your pain levels?

Circle yes or no

YES

NO

Do they help you feel good about yourself?

Circle yes or no

YES

NO

Do they help you get a good night's sleep?

Circle yes or no

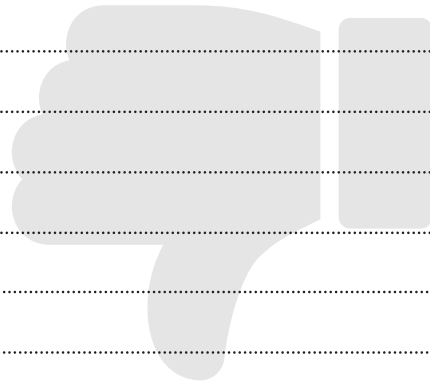
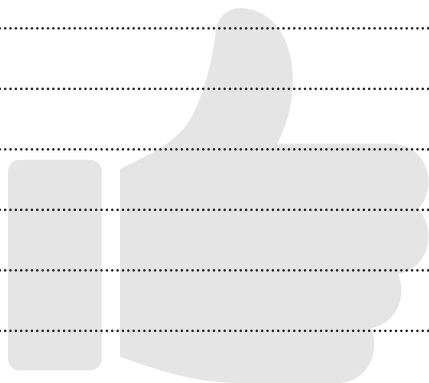
YES

NO

**Write down the benefits and problems or side effects
of taking medicines for your pain.**

Benefits +

Problems or side effects -



Now look through your answers.

Are there more benefits or problems in taking medicines?

Circle the answer that applies to you

More benefits

More problems

Choose from these medicine options for you now:

Tick your choice (s)

- ☐ **Stay on the medicines**
- ☐ **Explore ways to reduce or make changes to them**
- ☐ **Plan to gradually reduce and stop**
- ☐ **Other (please state)**

Please share your answers with your GP, pharmacist or pain management team.

It may help to know more ways to manage pain and cope with how it affects your life. It often leads to better pain relief, using less medication and feeling more confident to live well with pain.