

## **DORSET MEDICINES ADVISORY GROUP**

### **Halal and Kosher medicines**

- There is no exhaustive or comprehensive list of medicines available which are either halal certified or kosher certified. Neither is there a list of medicines that cannot be used.
- Individual product manufacturing companies should be contacted to ascertain whether the medicines contain any porcine products (or alcohol for Muslim patients) or if the excipients or ingredients have been derived from kosher or halal sources.
- There are no UK certified halal or kosher POM drug manufacturers in the UK and there are none that currently import halal or kosher medicines into the UK specifically.
- Advice from a pharmacist or a medicines information service should be sought, who can try to find out and review the ingredients and consider whether the product is suitable for Muslim or Jewish patients. They can also try to advise on what would be a suitable alternative if there is one available.
- Advice from a Rabbi or an Imam that is recognised by the patient should be sought if alternative products cannot be sourced or for any other advice or guidance.
- There are websites that provide information about halal foods/medicines:
  - ~ <http://www.halalfoodauthority.co.uk/>
  - ~ [www.foodguide.org.uk](http://www.foodguide.org.uk)
- Healthcare professionals can provide information about products and their excipients based on the information available to them but individuals remain responsible for deciding whether their treatment is compliant with their own religious belief systems.

#### **Based on**

Gupinder S. UKMi Q&A 381.1a How can I find out if medicines may be considered 'Kosher' or 'Halal'?  
Accessed via [www.evidence.nhs.uk](http://www.evidence.nhs.uk) on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015

July 2015