

Guidance for Anticipatory Prescribing in the Last Hours and Days of Life

Care of dying adults in the last days of life

NICE guideline December 2015

Provides guidance on the pharmacological management of common symptoms at the end of life and includes general recommendations for non-specialists prescribing medicines to manage these symptoms.

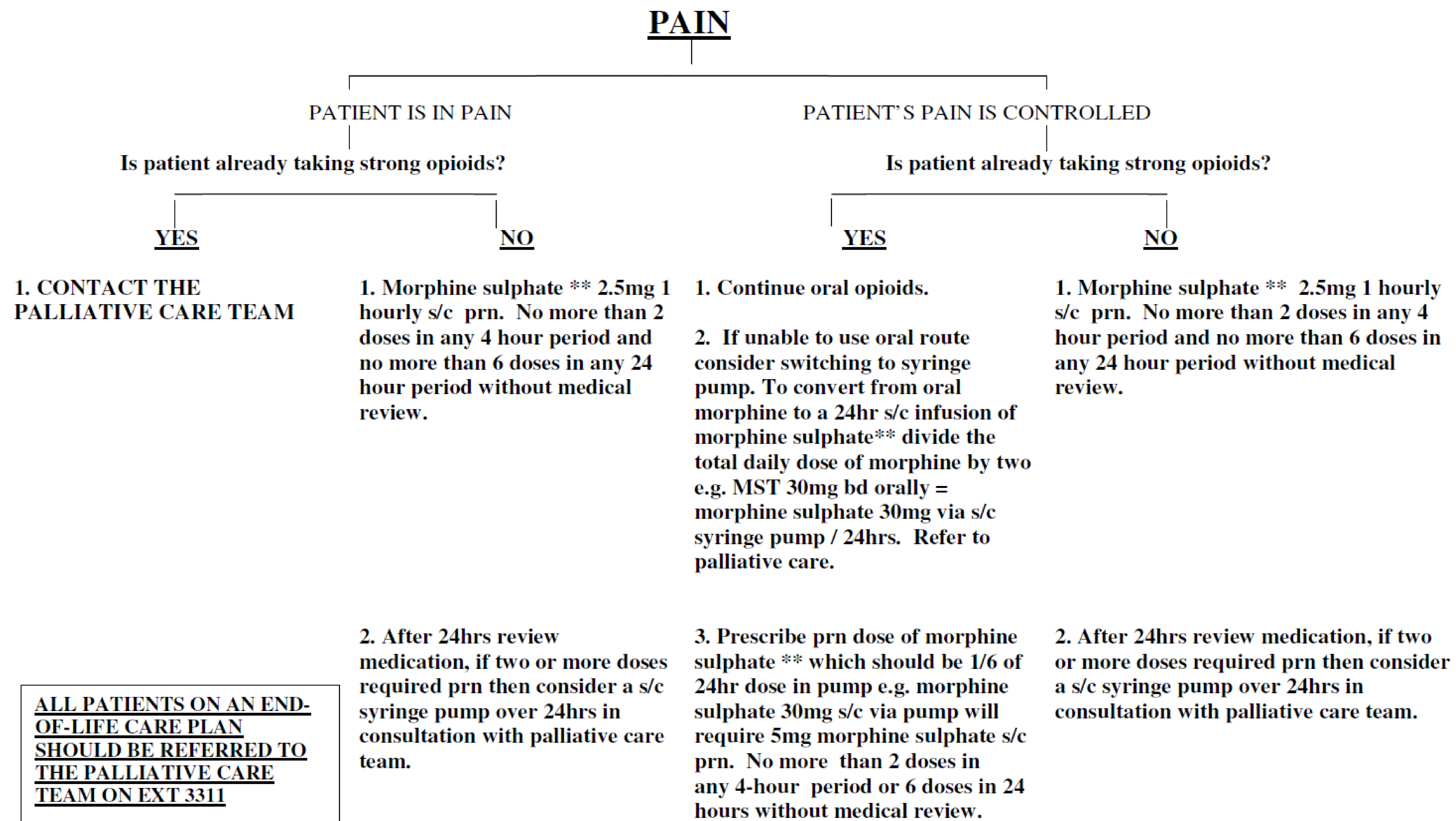
Recommendations

- Where people are starting treatment who have not previously been given medicines for symptom management, start with the lowest effective dose and titrate as clinically indicated.
- Use an individualised approach to prescribing anticipatory medicines for people who are likely to need symptom control in the last days of life.
- Specify the indications for use and the dosage of any medicines prescribed.
- Assess what medicines the person might need to manage symptoms likely to occur during their last days of life (such as agitation, anxiety, breathlessness, nausea and vomiting, noisy respiratory secretions and pain).
- Discuss any prescribing needs with the dying person, those important to them and the multiprofessional team.
- Ensure that suitable anticipatory medicines and routes are prescribed as early as possible.
- Review these medicines as the dying person's needs change.
- When deciding which anticipatory medicines to offer take into account: the likelihood of specific symptoms occurring the benefits and harms of prescribing or administering medicines the benefits and harms of not prescribing or administering medicines the possible risk of the person suddenly deteriorating (for example, catastrophic haemorrhage or seizures) for which urgent symptom control may be needed the place of care and the time it would take to obtain medicines.
- Before anticipatory medicines are administered, review the dying person's individual symptoms and adjust the individualised care plan and prescriptions as necessary.

Common Symptoms in the Last Hours and Days of Life

- Pain
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea and vomiting
- Agitation
- Respiratory secretions

Symptom Control Guidance



**** NB** If the patient has Renal Failure avoid morphine, please contact the Palliative Care Team

Symptom Control Guidance

NAUSEA AND VOMITING

PRESENT

1. HALOPERIDOL 0.5 - 1.5mg s/c prn.
(Maximum 5mg/24 hours)

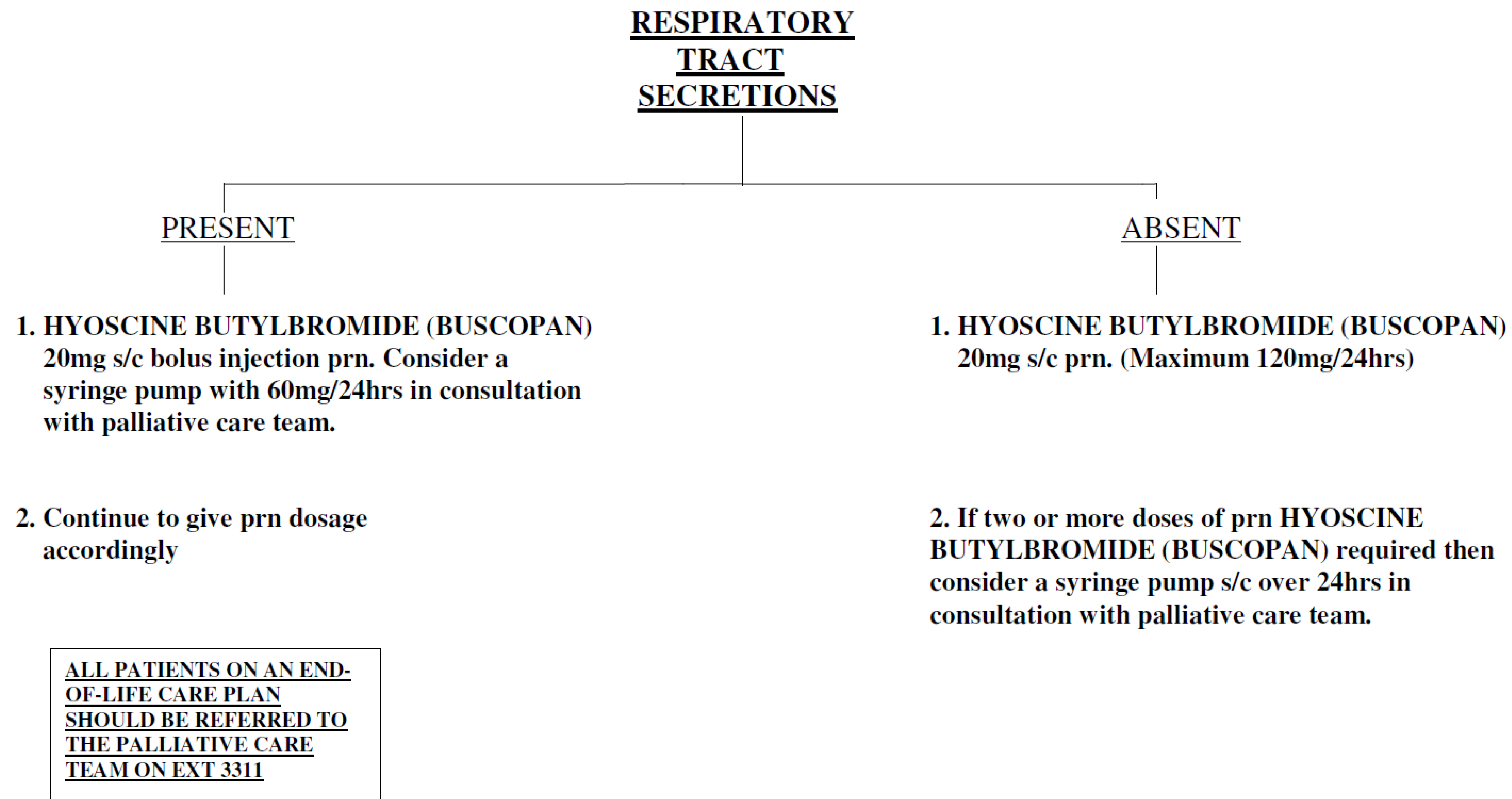
2. Review dosage after 24hrs. If two or more prn doses given, then consider use of a syringe pump in consultation with palliative care team.

ABSENT

2. HALOPERIDOL 0.5 - 1.5mg s/c prn.
(Maximum 5mg/24 hours)

ALL PATIENTS ON AN END-OF-LIFE CARE PLAN SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM ON EXT 3311

Symptom Control Guidance



Symptom Control Guidance

TERMINAL RESTLESSNESS & AGITATION

PRESENT

1. Midazolam 2.5mg 1 hourly s/c prn. No more than 2 doses in any 4 hour period and no more than 6 doses in any 24 hour period without medical review. Refer to palliative care team.

2. After 24hrs review medication, if two or more doses required prn then consider a s/c syringe pump over 24hrs in consultation with palliative care team.

**ALWAYS EXCLUDE
REVERSIBLE CAUSES OF
AGITATION BEFORE USING
SEDATIVES**

ABSENT

1. Midazolam 2.5mg 1 hourly s/c prn. No more than 2 doses in any 4 hour period and no more than 6 doses in any 24 hour period without medical review. Refer to palliative care team.

2. After 24hrs review medication, if two or more doses required prn then consider a s/c syringe pump over 24hrs in consultation with palliative care team.

**ALL PATIENTS ON AN END-
OF-LIFE CARE PLAN
SHOULD BE REFERRED TO
THE PALLIATIVE CARE
TEAM ON EXT 3311**

Using iClip to prescribe anticipatory medications in the last hours and days of life

*These principles apply to both electronic and paper
prescribing*

Check allergies

ZZTEST, TE...
ZZTEST, TEST-PATIENT99
* Allergies **
Resus statusFor CPR

Age:35 years
DOB:05/May/80
FLAG
Weight for Meds:60 kg

Sex:Male
MRN:2476117
Planned Discharge:

Loc:RJ7 RaH; Virt
Inpatient [12/Dec/2
Lead Clinician:
Predicted Discharge

Menu - All
Summary View
ICU Charting
Patient Information
Care Plan Goals
Allergies/ Adverse Reactions
Orders + Add
Fast Meds
Results
Tasks
Diagnoses and Problems
Procedures and Complications
Histories
Assessments and Obs
Clinical Notes
Documentation + Add
Form Browser
Overview
Record View
CEP Community View
Clinical Research
Meds Administration
Medication Summary

Summary View
Inpatient Summary | Outpatient Summary | ED Summary | Quick Orders and Char...

Allergies (5) +
All Visits

Carrots	--
codeine	--
Penicillin -class of antibiotic-	--
sodium chloride	Rash
Sodium chloride	--

Home Medications (13) +
All Visits

- Rx: AmLOdipine 5 mg, Oral, Daily every Morning
- Rx: Clopidogrel 75 mg, Oral, Daily every Afternoon
- Rx: Doxazosin 4 mg, Oral, Twice a Day
- Rx: Enalapril 5 mg, Oral, Daily every Morning
- Rx: Ibuprofen 400 mg, Oral, Three times a day
- Rx: Paracetamol 1 g, Oral, Four Times a Day, PRN: | PAIN - Add type in Indication
- Hx: Paracetamol mg, Oral, PRN: PAIN - Add type in Indication
- Rx: Paracetamol 1 g, Oral, Four Times a Day, PRN: Pain
- Rx: Ramipril 5 mg, Oral, Daily every Morning
- Hx: TraMADol mg, Oral

Radiology (1)
All Visits

	Date/Time	Status
Other Diagnostics (1)		
XR Chest	12/10/14 08:29	Auth (Verified)

From "Orders" Tab from left hand column click "+Add" then search "palliative" & select "Palliative Care Symptom Control Meds"

The screenshot shows a medical software interface with a patient record for ZZZTEST, TEST-PATIENT99. The patient's details are as follows:

- Age: 35 years
- Sex: Male
- DOB: 05/May/80
- MRN: 2476117
- Weight for Meds: 60 kg
- Loc: RJ7 RaH; Virtual 13; Home 13
- Inpatient [12/Dec/2015 03:42 - 13/Jan/2016 16:46]
- Planned Discharge:
- Lead Clinician:
- Predicted Discharge Date: 20/Jan/16

The 'Diagnoses & Problems' section shows the following table:

SNOMED CT	Annotated Display	Code
	COPD	23290013
	CSE test due	257116014

The 'Problems' section shows a table with the following columns:

SNOMED CT	Annotated Display	Name of Problem
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The search results for 'palliative' are as follows:

- Oncology Palliative F/Up
- Oncology Palliative New
- Palliative Care Symptom Co...**
- Request for Admission - Palliative
- Palliative Care Symptom Control Meds

The 'Suggested Plans (4)' section shows the following list:

- Investigations
- Non Categorised
- Patient Care
- Continuous/Titrated
- Medications
- Pathology
- Radiology
- Consultations
- Surgery
- Medical Supplies

The 'Orders' section shows the following list:

- Investigations
- Non Categorised
- Patient Care
- Continuous/Titrated
- Medications
- Pathology
- Radiology
- Consultations
- Surgery
- Medical Supplies

Check box against prn medications required and click “Orders For Signature”
If eGFR<30 do NOT select morphine.
If eGFR>30 select morphine & skip to slide 17

Add to Phase
 Check Alerts
 Start:
 Duration:

Component	Status	Details
Palliative Care Symptom Control Meds (Initiated Pending)		
Medications		
Please Refer to attached guidelines before proceeding with a prescription.		
PAIN		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Morphine Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for Pain No more than 2 doses in any 4 hour period and no more than 6 doses in any 24 hour period without medical review.
NAUSEA AND VOMITING		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Haloperidol Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 1.5 mg - every Hour PRN for nausea/vomiting Dose 0.5-1.5mg. Max 5mg/24hours
RESPIRATORY TRACT SECREATIONS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hyoscine butylbromide Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 20 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Respiratory tract secretions Max 180mg in 24 hours, without review
TERMINAL RESTLESSNESS & AGITATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midazolam Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Terminal Restlessness & Agitation No more than 2 doses in any 4 hour period and no more than 6 doses in any 24 hour period without medical review.

If eGFR<30 to prescribe oxycodone instead of morphine click “Add”

The screenshot displays a clinical software interface for managing medication orders. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon and the text "Orders". Below this, a toolbar contains an "Add" button, a "Document Medication by History" button, a "Reconciliation" dropdown menu, and a "Check Interactions" button. The main area is divided into two panes. The left pane, titled "View", shows a tree structure of orders. Under "Orders for Signature", there are sections for "Plans" (Document in Plan, Multi-Disciplinary, Medical) and "Suggested Plans (4)". The "Medical" section is expanded to show "Palliative Care Symptom Control Meds (Initiated Pending)", "Subcutaneous (SC) Infusion Syringe Pumps (Initiated)", and "Blood Products (Transfusion) (Discontinued)". The "Suggested Plans (4)" section is also expanded, showing checkboxes for "Investigations", "Non Categorised", "Patient Care", "Continuous/Titratable" (which is checked), "Medications", "Pathology", and "Radiology". The right pane shows a list of medication orders for a patient with ID "R17 RaH; Virtual 13; Home 13 Fin#:63958". The list is titled "Medications" and contains three entries: "Haloperidol", "Hyoscine butylbromide", and "Midazolam". Each entry has icons for a pill, a question mark, a speech bubble, and a filter icon.

Order Name
R17 RaH; Virtual 13; Home 13 Fin#:63958
Medications
Haloperidol
Hyoscine butylbromide
Midazolam

Search for oxycodone select from box below & click “Done”

ZZZTEST, TEST-PATIENT99 - Add Order

ZZZTEST, TEST-PATIENT99
** Allergies **
Resus statusFor CPR

Age:35 years Sex:Male Loc:R7 RaH; Virtual 13; Home 13
DOB:05/May/80 MRN:2476117 Inpatient [12/Dec/2015 03:42 - 13/Jan/2016 16:46]
FLAG Planned Discharge: Lead Clinician:
Weight for Meds:60 kg Predicted Discharge Date:20/Jan/16

Diagnoses & Problems

Diagnosis (Problem) being Addressed this Visit
+ Add ↔ Convert Display: Active

SNOMED CT

	Annotated Display	Code
<input type="checkbox"/>	COPD	23290013
<input type="checkbox"/>	CSE test due	757116014

Problems
+ Add ↔ Convert No Chronic Problems

Display: All

SNOMED CT

Annotated Display	Name of Problem

Search: Contains Type: Search within:

- OxyCODONE**
- OxyCODONE (Additive for Infusion)
- OxyCODONE OxyCODONE cose ...
- OxyCODONE *Paeds* in Sodium ...
- OxyCODONE *PICU* in Glucose 5...
- OxyCODONE *PICU* in Sodium c...
- OxyCODONE + Naloxone *NF*

ZZZTEST, TEST-PATIENT99 - 2476117 Done

Click on arrow next to top option, select “subcutaneous injection” from drop down menu

+ Add to Phase ▾ Start: ... Duration: ...

Component	Status	Details
OxyCODONE (Initiated Pending)		
Medications		
<input type="checkbox"/> OxyCODONE		Select an order sentence
<input type="checkbox"/> OxyCODONE (OxyCODONE IV (Set Rate))		<<<<<ADULT AND CHILD OVER 8 YEARS>>>>> Modified-release Tablet - Oral - *CD* mg - every Twelve hours Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Pain Breakthrough/ Shortness of breath . <<<<<ADULT AND CHILD OVER 12 YEARS>>>>> <<<<<IMMEDIATE RELEASE >>>>> Capsule - Oral - *CD* -Dose: 5 mg - every Four hours PRN for PAIN - Add type in Indication Liquid - Oral - *CD* -Dose: 5 mg - every Four hours PRN for PAIN - Add type in Indication . <<<<<CHILD 1 MONTH TO 12 YEARS>>>>> <<<<<IMMEDIATE RELEASE >>>>> Capsule - Oral - *CD* microgram - every Four hours PRN for PAIN - Add type in Indication Liquid - Oral - *CD* microgram - every Four hours PRN for PAIN - Add type in Indication

Enter bleep and dose required and check units are correct

OxyCODONE (Initiated Pending)

Medications

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OxyCODONE	Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Pain Breakthrough/ Shortness of breath Max 2 doses in 4 hours or 6 in 24 hours, without review
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OxyCODONE (OxyCODONE IV (Set Rate))	Select an order sentence

nding)

Details for OxyCODONE

Details | Order Comments | Offset Details | Diagnoses

+ [Icons]

*Bleep/telephone number: 7102	*Form: Injection
*Route: subCutaneous	Administered Via:
Legal Status: *CD*	*Dose: 2.5
*Dose Unit: mg	*Frequency: every Hour
PRN: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	*PRN Reason: OTHER:
Indication: Pain Breakthrough/ Shortness of bre...	Give STAT Dose?: No
Start Date / Time: **/**/**** GMT	Duration:
Duration Unit:	Patients Own Supply:
Supply Type:	Amount Supplied:
Comments for Pharmacy:	Non-Formulary: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Unlicensed: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	PbP Excluded: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Dx Table | Save as My Favourite

Check “Order Comments” tab that comments are correct. If prescribing a range - prescribe upper end of range and enter comment as below describing range. Click “Orders for Signature”

▼ Details for **OxyCODONE**

Details | **Order Comments** | Offset Details | Diagnoses

Order comments

Max 2 doses in 4 hours or 6 in 24 hours, without review
Please give 1.25-2.5mg prn for pain or breathlessness

Dx Table | Save as My Favourite | **Orders For Signature**

Click "Missing Required Details"

Check Interactions

Recommendation Status
✓ Meds History 🔄 Admission 🔄 Discharge

🔍 ? 🗨️ 📄

Order Name	Status	Start	Details
⚡ RJ7 RaH; Virtual 13; Home 13 Fin#:6395811 Admit: 12/Dec/2015 03:42 GMT			
⚡ Medications			
📄 📄 ⓧ Haloperidol	Order	17/Feb/2016 16:58 GMT	Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 1.5 mg - every Hour PRN for nausea/vomiting -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58 GMT Dose 0.5-1.5mg. Max 5mg/24hours
📄 📄 ⓧ Hyoscine butylbromide	Order	17/Feb/2016 16:58 GMT	Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 20 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Respiratory tract secretions -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58 GMT Max 180mg in 24 hours, without review
📄 📄 ⓧ Midazolam	Order	17/Feb/2016 16:58 GMT	Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Terminal Restlessness & Agitation -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58 GMT No more than 2 doses in any 4 hour period and no more than 6 doses in any 24 hour period without medical review.
📄 📄 OxyCODONE	Order	17/Feb/2016 17:32 GMT	Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Pain Breakthrough/ Shortness of breath -Start: 17/Feb/16 17:32 GMT Max 2 doses in 4 hours or 6 in 24 hours, without review Please give 1.25-2.5mg prn for pain or breathlessness

⚡ **Details**

3 Missing Required Details

Dx Table

Sign

Pending)
d)

For each prn medication enter bleep on “Details” tab and check “Order Comments”. Click “Sign” then “refresh”

Order Name	Status	Start	Details
RJ7 RaH; Virtual 13; Home 13 Fin#:6395811 Admit: 12/Dec/2015 03:42 GMT			
Medications			
Haloperidol	Order	17/Feb/2016 16:58 GMT	Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 1.5 mg - every Hour PRN for nausea/vomiting -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58 GMT Dose 0.5-1.5mg. Max 5mg/24hours
Hyoscine butylbromide	Order	17/Feb/2016 16:58 GMT	Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 20 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Respiratory tract secretions -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58 GMT Max 180mg in 24 hours, without review
Midazolam	Order	17/Feb/2016 16:58 GMT	Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Terminal Restlessness & Agitation -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58 GMT No more than 2 doses in any 4 hour period and no more than 6 doses in any 24 hour period without medical review.
OxyCODONE	Order	17/Feb/2016 17:32 GMT	Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Pain Breakthrough/ Shortness of breath -Start: 17/Feb/16 17:32 GMT Max 2 doses in 4 hours or 6 in 24 hours, without review Please give 1.25-2.5mg prn for pain or breathlessness

Details for Haloperidol

Order comments

Dose 0.5-1.5mg. Max 5mg/24hours

2 Missing Required Details Dx Table

Medication Summary view

Age: 35 years
DOB: 05/May/80
FLAG
Weight for Meds:
ZZZTEST, TEST-PATIENT99
** Allergies **
Resus statusFor CPR

Medication Summary

Menu - All

- Summary View
- PICU Charting
- Patient Information
- Care Plan Goals
- Allergies/ Adverse Reactions
- Orders + Add
- Past Meds
- Results
- Tasks
- Diagnoses and Problems
- Procedures and Complications
- Histories
- Assessments and Obs
- Clinical Notes
- Documentation + Add
- Form Browser
- Overview
- Record View
- CEP Community View
- Clinical Research
- Meds Administration
- Medication Summary

Time View	15/Feb/2016 0000 - 2359	16/Feb/2016 0000 - 2359	17/Feb/2016 0000 - 2359	18/Feb/2016 0000 - 2359
PRN				
Haloperidol Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 1.5 mg - every Hour PRN for nausea/vomiting -...			PRN	
Hyoscine butylbromide Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 20 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Respi...			PRN	
Midazolam Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for ...			PRN	
OxyCODONE Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for ...			PRN	
Continuous/Titratable				
Midazolam (Additive for Infusion) 15 mg + Alfentanil (Additive for...) Injection - SubCutaneous ...			CONT	

Meds Administration view

** Allergies **
DOB:05/May/80
MRN:24

Resus statusFor CPR
FLAG
Planned

Weight for Meds:60 kg

16 February 2016 16:51 GMT

Menu - All

- Summary View
- PICU Charting
- Patient Information
- Care Plan Goals
- Allergies/ Adverse Reactions
- Orders + Add
- Past Meds
- Results
- Tasks
- Diagnoses and Problems
- Procedures and Complications
- Histories
- Assessments and Obs
- Clinical Notes
- Documentation + Add
- Form Browser
- Overview
- Record View
- CEP Community View
- Clinical Research
- Meds Administration**
- Medication Summary

Time View

- Scheduled
- Unscheduled
- PRN
- Continuous/Titratable
- Future
- Discontinued Scheduled
- Discontinued Unscheduled
- Discontinued PRN
- Discontinued Continuous/Titratable

Medications	17/Feb/16 17:45 GMT
Haloperidol Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 1.5 mg - every Hour PRN for nausea/vomiting -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58:00 GMT Dose 0.5-1.5mg. Max 5mg/24hours Haloperidol Care Admin Reason Scan Unrecognised Barcode Self/Carer Administration	PRN 1.5 mg Not previously given
Hyoscine butylbromide Injection - subCutaneous -Dose: 20 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Respiratory tract secretions -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58:00 GMT Max 180mg in 24 hours, without review Hyoscine butylbromide Care Admin Reason Scan Unrecognised Barcode Self/Carer Administration	PRN 20 mg Not previously given
Midazolam Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Terminal Restlessness & Agitation -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:58:00 GMT No more than 2 doses in any 4 hour period and... Midazolam Care Admin Reason Scan Unrecognised Barcode Self/Carer Administration	PRN 2.5 mg Not previously given
OxyCODONE Injection - subCutaneous - *CD* -Dose: 2.5 mg - every Hour PRN for OTHER: for Pain Breakthrough/ Shortness of breath -Start: 17/Feb/16 17:32:00 GMT Max 2 doses in 4 hours or 6 in 24 hours, witho... OxyCODONE Care Admin Reason Scan Unrecognised Barcode Self/Carer Administration	PRN 2.5 mg Not previously given
<p>Continuous/Titratable</p> Midazolam (Additive for Infusion) 15 mg Alfentanil (Additive for Infusion) 0.5 mg Hyoscine butylbromide (Additive for In Syringe Pump MADE up to: 22 mL Injection - SubCutaneous - One Dose Only -R...	Midazolam (Additive for Infusion) 15 mg + Alfentanil (Additive for Infusion) 0.5 mg + Hyoscine butylbromide (Additive for Infusion) 60 mg + Syringe Pump MADE up to: 22 mL Injection - SubCutaneous - One Dose Only -Rate: 0.92 mL/hr -Infuse over: 2: hour -Start: 17/Feb/16 16:44:00 GMT Use a 30ml BD Plastick syringe. Please note that the mL/hr rate on the pump