

April 7, 2010

Dear North Shore Family Physician:

RE: PALLIATIVE HOME MEDICATION KITS

Effective immediately, please use these new order forms when ordering a Palliative Home Medication Kit. Please destroy all your old copies of this form.

Enclosed are:

- 1) copies of new order forms for the Palliative Home Medication Kits as the contents of these kits have changed.
- 2) A copy of Palliative Home Medication Kit Contents and Dosing Suggestions for Health Professionals.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call:

- 1) Amin Janmohamed - Pharmax Health
@ 604-985-8844
- 2) Mandy Tanner
Palliative Clinician – NS Home and Community Care
@ 604-983-6762

Sincerely

Mandy Tanner,
Palliative Clinician
North Shore Home & Community Care
mandy.tanner@vch.ca

PALLIATIVE HOME MEDICATION KIT

INITIAL ORDERS ONLY

Note – these orders will be discontinued if patient hospitalized

Name (last,first):

Address:

Phone #:

PHN:

Allergies:	
SYMPTOM ALLEVIATION	
NAUSEA/VOMITING	<input type="checkbox"/> Metoclopramide (Maxeran) 10 - 20 mg sc qid prn <input type="checkbox"/> Haloperidol 0.5 – 1 mg sc tid prn <input type="checkbox"/> Dimenhydrinate 25 – 50 mg sc q4h prn <input type="checkbox"/> Dexamethasone 2 – 4 mg sc bid – qid prn
PAIN/DYSPNEA (check one + breakthrough)	<input type="checkbox"/> HYDROmorphine.....mg to mg sc q4h and HYDROmorphinemg tomg sc q30 mins prn for breakthrough pain <i>NB: Hydromorphone is 5 times more potent than Morphine</i> OR <input type="checkbox"/> MORphinemg tomg sc q4h and MORphinemg tomg sc q30 mins prn for breakthrough pain
DYSPNEA (in addition to above narcotic)	<input type="checkbox"/> Midazolam 1 – 2 mg sc q30-60mins prn OR <input type="checkbox"/> Methotrimeprazine (Nozinan) 2.5 - 12.5 mg sc bid-tid prn
UPPER AIRWAY SECRETIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> Glycopyrrolate 0.2 – 0.4 mg sc q2-6h prn OR <input type="checkbox"/> Scopolamine 0.6 mg sc q1h prn
RESTLESSNESS, AGITATION, CONFUSION, DELIRIUM (use lower dose range for confusion)	<input type="checkbox"/> Methotrimeprazine (Nozinan) 2.5 -10 mg sc q2h prn OR <input type="checkbox"/> Haloperidol 0.25 – 0.5 mg sc q30mins prn
ANXIETY (if not pain nor dyspnea)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lorazepam (Ativan) 0.5 - 1 mg sublingual q6h prn
MYOCLONUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Midazolam 1 – 2 mg sc q2h prn OR <input type="checkbox"/> Lorazepam (Ativan) 1 mg sublingual q4h prn
SEIZURES	<input type="checkbox"/> Midazolam 2 mg sc stat; repeat q20mins prn x 3 – contact physician OR <input type="checkbox"/> Lorazepam (Ativan) 1-2 mg sublingual stat; repeat q15 min prn x 3 - contact physician
OTHER (Please consult Palliative Medication Kit Contents and Dosing Suggestion Sheet for Kit alternatives to above):	

1. If unable to swallow, may insert s/c butterfly and begin s/c meds as ordered above	3. Fever: Acetaminophen 650 mg supp pr q4h prn for temp>37.5 C
2. PRN may pronounce death. MD to be notified within 12 hrs	4. May insert Foley Catheter

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

FAX to

Pharmax Health	604-985-8842
AND one of the below:	
North-East & South Teams	604-983-6707
West Team	604-904-6262

Palliative Home Medication Kit Contents & Dosing Suggestions for Health Professionals

Drug Kit Contents:

Acetaminophen	650 mg supp – 6 supps	HYDRomorphone	2 mg/mL – 15 amps
Dexamethasone	20 mg/5ml – 2 vials		10 mg/mL – 15 amps
Diclofenac	50 mg supp – 2 supps	Lorazepam	0.5 mg sublingual – 20 tabs
Dimenhydrinate	100 mg supp – 5 supps	Methotrimeprazine	25 mg/mL - 10 amps
	50 mg/mL – 5 vials	Metoclopramide	10 mg/2 ml – 10 vials
Fentanyl	25 mcg/hr patch – 2 patches	Midazolam	5mg/ml – 5 vials
	50 mcg/hr patch – 1 patch	MORphine	10 mg/mL – 15 amps
Glycopyrrolate	0.4 mg/2ml – 10 vials	Scopolamine	0.6 mg/mL – 10 amps
Haloperidol	5 mg/ml – 5 amps		

Treatment suggestions for Nausea and Vomiting:

Motion and Positional	Dimenhydrinate 25 - 50 mg sc q4h prn Scopolamine 0.6 mg sc q4h prn
Chemical Causes	Haloperidol 1-2 mg sc at hs and 0.5 - 1 mg sc q6h prn Metoclopramide 10 mg sc q6h prn
GI/Mechanical Causes	Metoclopramide 10 mg sc q6h prn Dexamethasone 2 - 4 mg sc bid-qid prn
CNS Causes	Dexamethasone 2 - 4 mg sc bid-qid prn Dimenhydrinate 25 - 50 mg sc q4h prn
Intractable, severe	Dexamethasone 4 mg sc qid prn

Treatment suggestions for Pain in opioid naïve patients

MORphine 2.5 - 5 mg sc q1h prn OR HYDRomorphone 0.5 - 1 mg sc q1h prn
Acetaminophen 650 mg supp pr q6h prn
Diclofenac 50 mg supp pr q8h prn

Treatment suggestions for Pain Crisis:

If not on opioids: MORphine 5 - 10 mg sc OR HYDRomorphone 1-2 mg sc STAT and q20min prn
If on oral opioids: Give existing breakthrough po dose by sc route STAT and q20min prn
If on sc opioids: Give double the existing breakthrough sc dose STAT and q20min prn
If on Fentanyl Patch: Give existing breakthrough po dose by sc route STAT and q20min prn
OR double the existing breakthrough sc dose STAT and q20min prn

Treatment suggestions for Severe Dyspnea:

MORphine OR HYDRomorphone sc as for pain crisis
Lorazepam 0.5 - 1mg sublingual q2h prn OR
Midazolam 1-2 mg sc q30min prn
Methotrimeprazine (Nozinan) 2.5 - 12.5 mg sc bid-tid prn

Treatment suggestions for Severe Agitation:

Lorazepam 1 - 2 mg sublingual prn OR
Methotrimeprazine 12.5 - 25 mg sc q4h prn or
Haloperidol 2.5 - 5 mg sc q4h prn

Treatment suggestions for Noisy Respiration when imminently terminal:

Glycopyrrolate 0.2-0.4mg s/c q2-6h OR
Scopolamine 0.6 mg sc q1h prn

Treatment suggestions for Acute Seizures:

Lorazepam 1 - 2 mg sl q 15min prn until seizures stop or maximum 3 doses, call MD if ineffective
Phenobarb **130** mg sc/IM stat and q10-20min prn x 3; call MD if ineffective (order separately as phenobarb not in medication kit)

See VCH Community Palliative Care Clinical Practice Guidelines for more detailed information and rationale.
For Equianalgesic Dose Table, refer to page 16 in the guidelines.