

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: Temporary End of LIFE CARE Symptom Control Guidance for Use in the COVID-19 crisis.

Please use in conjunction with your local Palliative Care Guidelines <http://www.wmcares.org.uk/wmpcp/guide/>

Disclaimers: Note unlicensed routes/uses. Please seek your LOCAL SPECIALIST PALLIATIVE CARE services for advice if working beyond your competencies

SYMPTOM	USUAL MANAGEMENT **Also see usual advice**	OTHER MANAGEMENT	**EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES – Only consider if usual management not available**
<p>DYSPNOEA/ BREATHLESSNESS</p> <p>CSCI = continuous subcutaneous infusion</p> <p>Hrly = hourly</p> <p>Amps = ampoules</p>	<p>Oramorph (oral morphine sulphate solution 10mg/5ml) 2.5mg to 5mg PRN hrly</p> <p>Morphine sulphate inj (10mg/1ml, 30mg/1ml amps) 2.5mg SC PRN hrly (CSCI 10mg/24 hrs) **Start low doses in opiate naïve, elderly renal impairment**</p> <p>Oxycodone(oxycodone solution 5mg/5ml or capsules) 2mg to 5mg PRN hrly</p> <p>Oxycodone inj (10mg/1ml, 20mg/2ml amps) SC PRN 1mg -2.5mg (CSCI 5mg to 20mg/24 hrs) **Start low doses in opiate naïve or elderly**</p> <p>Lorazepam (1mg tablets) 0.5mg to 1mg SL PRN 4 hrly (max 4mg/24hrs)</p> <p>Midazolam (10mg/2ml amps) 2.5mg SC PRN hrly (CSCI 5-10mg/24 hrs starting dose)</p>	<p>Positioning – Tri pod position</p> <p>Oxygen if already prescribed</p> <p>Air movement - Fan, open window (Caution in COVID patients due to possible viral droplet spread)</p> <p>Guided breathing techniques</p>	<p>First line: consider other forms of oral opioids: <i>**Seek Specialist Advice if you are unfamiliar with the drug**</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MST tablets/granules (modified release morphine sulphate) • Sevredol tablets (immediate release morphine sulphate) • Open up Zomorph capsules & sprinkle on food • Buprenorphine transdermal patch – check dose conversions <p>ONLY If patient unable to swallow consider: Morphine PR (seek Specialist Advice)</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Last resort:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oral Morphine CONCENTRATE solution (20mg/1ml) 5-10mg two hrly PRN (with supply of 1 ml syringes) some absorption through buccal mucosa. (Also Oxycodone concentrate solution available 10mg/1ml) ** If patients are already using Oramorph (10mg/5ml) then caution advised if adding in concentrate as risk of staff/carers getting these mixed up)**</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Other options under local Specialist Advice ONLY: non injectable use of IV morphine ampoules (if this the only drug available & there is no access to SC/IV route) Intranasal or sublingual fentanyl Steroids</p>
<p>PAIN</p> <p style="color: red;">**PLEASE ALSO REFER to your usual Palliative Care guidelines or your local Palliative Care Specialists – doses and drug choices for ALL SYMPTOMS LISTED may differ between localities **</p> <p style="color: blue;">West Midlands Link above</p> <p style="color: red;">SEEK ADVICE IF PRESCRIBING OUTSIDE YOUR COMPETANCIES</p>	<p>Oramorph (Oral morphine solution 10mg/5ml) 5-10mg PRN hrly</p> <p>Morphine sulphate inj (10mg/1ml, 30mg/1ml amps) 2.5mg to 5mg SC PRN hrly (CSCI 10mg to 30mg/24 hrs) **Start low doses in opiate naïve, elderly renal impairment**</p> <p>Oxycodone (oral oxycodone solution 5mg/5ml) 2mg to 5mg PRN hrly</p> <p>Oxycodone inj (10mg/1ml,20mg/2ml amps) SC PRN 1mg - 2.5mg hrly (CSCI 5mg to 20mg/24 hrs)</p> <p style="color: red;">**Caution in opiate naïve**</p> <p>**If on regular opioids including patches, calculate PRN dose based on total 24 hr dose**</p>	<p>Use of NSAIDS for pain in COVID-19 is currently not recommended</p>	<p>First line: See other forms of opioids in dyspnoea section above[†]</p> <p>Fentanyl & Buprenorphine transdermal patch (caution in fever due to possible surge in absorption) * See usual guidance for dose conversions or seek local Specialist Advice*</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Last Resort:</p> <p>Oral Morphine CONCENTRATE solution (20mg/1ml) 5-10mg hourly PRN (with supply of 1 ml syringes) some absorption through buccal mucosa Or Oxycodone oral CONCENTRATE solution (10mg/1ml) – prescribe with supply of 1ml syringes some absorption through buccal mucosa * If patients are already using oramorph (10mg/5ml) then caution advised if adding in concentrate as risk of staff/carers getting these mixed up)**</p>

SYMPTOM	USUAL MANAGEMENT **Also see usual advice**	OTHER MANAGEMENT	**EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES – Only consider if usual management not available**
FEVER	Paracetamol 1g PO/PR PRN 4 hrly (4g/24hrs, 2-3g/24hrs in elderly/<50kg)	Gentle cooling measures	Consider other preparations – soluble, liquid, PR **Caution with NSAIDs in COVID patients until further evidence to support safety**
RESPIRATORY SECRETIONS	Hyoscine Butylbromide (20mg/1ml amps) 20mg SC PRN 2 hrly (CSCI 60mg to 120mg/24hrs) Glycopyrronium (200micrograms/1ml, 600micrograms/3ml amps) 200-400mcg SC PRN 2 hrly (CSCI 600micrograms to 2.4mg/24hrs) Hyoscine Hydrobromide (400micrograms/1ml amps) 400micrograms SC PRN 4 hrly (CSCI 1.2mg/24hrs) **Caution in renal impairment & COVID-19 +ve patients as can worsen delirium**	Re-position patient on side or in semi-prone position to promote postural drainage	Atropine SL 1% drops (ophthalmic drops) – 2 drops SL every 2-4 hrs **Avoid in patients with delirium or dementia due to increased risk of confusion** Hyoscine hydrobromide 300micrograms SL tablets or Hyoscine Hydrobromide transdermal patch 1mg per 72 hrs on hairless skin behind the ear. Patches can be halved or quartered. Maximum dose 2mg/24hrs **Caution in renal impairment & COVID-19 +ve patients as can worsen delirium**
DELIRIUM (Haloperidol & levomepromazine most common first line) **Often delirium and agitation are difficult to differentiate** AGITATION, ANXIETY, RESTLESSNESS (Benzodiazepines may be more useful)	Haloperidol (tablets or oral solution) or SC (5mg/1ml amps) 0.5mg to 1mg PRN 2 hrly (CSCI 2.5mg to 5mg/24hrs) Levomepromazine (25mg/1ml amps) 5mg SC PRN 4 hrly (CSCI 10- 25mg/24hrs) **Caution in frail/low body weight/renal impairment 2.5mg PRN** **Higher doses with Specialist Advice** Lorazepam (1mg tablets) 0.5 to 1mg SL PRN 4 hrly max 4mg/24hrs Midazolam (10mg/2ml amps) 2.5mg to 5mg SC PRN (CSCI 5-30mg/24 hrs) **Higher doses seek Specialist Advice**	Consider and treat underlying causes – blocked catheter, constipation, hypercalcaemia etc Reduce stimuli <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid loud noise • avoid bright light Reduce number of people in the room	Contact local Specialist Advice for high dose use of: Levomepromazine or Midazolam Other dugs may be suggested such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buccal midazolam (10mg/1ml prefilled syringe) • Rectal diazepam • Risperidone • Olanzapine
NAUSEA & VOMITING	Levomepromazine (25mg/1ml amps) 2.5mg - 5mg SC PRN 4 hrly (CSCI 5-25mg/24hrs) **Caution in frail/low body wt/renal impairment 2.5mg PRN** Haloperidol 0.5 to 1mg PO/SC (5mg/1ml amps) PRN 4 hrly (CSCI 2.5mg to 5mg/24 hrs) **Caution in renal impairment** Metoclopramide 10mg PO/SC PRN (10mg/2ml amps) 4 hrly (CSCI 30-60mg/24 hrs) Cyclizine 50mg PO or 25mg SC PRN (50mg/1ml amps) Max TDS (CSCI 75mg/24hrs)	Consider and treat underlying cause Remove avoidable triggers such as smells Eat and drink slowly, frequent, small meals or snacks	Ondansetron 4- 8mg 4 hrly PRN orodispersible tablets or orodispersible film (16mg /24 hrs) SE. constipation (caution if risk of bowel obstruction) **Ondansetron suppositories 16mg available** Granisetron patch 3.1mg/24 hours. Change every 7 days Olanzapine tablets 5mg to 10mg daily includes orodispersible