

Accessing palliative care drugs during the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. This document has been developed with local clinicians and provides a list of drugs considered appropriate for EOL care in patients with COVID: *this is not clinical guidance – prescribing decisions should be made based on individual clinical needs and with reference to local palliative care pathways and/or NICE guidance [NG163](#)*

2. Suggested end of life (EOL) stock list

Morphine sulfate 10mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules
Morphine sulfate 5mg and 10mg modified-release tablets
Morphine sulfate 10mg/5ml oral solution
Midazolam 10mg/2ml solution for injection ampoules
Levomepromazine 25mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules
Hyoscine butylbromide 20 mg/ml injection ampoules
Hyoscine hydrobromide 1mg/72hour patch
Lorazepam 500micrograms and 1mg tablets
Haloperidol 500microgram capsules or tablets, as available
Haloperidol 1.5mg tablets
Haloperidol 5mg/ml injection ampoules

3. Suggested quantities to stock

- Non –dispensing GP practices - one original pack of all drugs on list (e.g. 28 tablets)
- Community pharmacies and dispensing practices – up to two to three original packs of all drugs on list
- OOH services to review and increase current stock provision two-three fold
- Substitute above medicines if not available – contact local palliative care team or MM team for advice
- **Review stock levels daily; reorder and modify stock levels as demand dictates**

4. Issuing medicines to patients and carers

- Medicines should be prescribed on FP10 where possible and dispensed via usual routes. See <https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/nigels-surgery-28-management-controlled-drugs> - practices must still complete an FP10CDF: https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2017-03/6-1387-Form_FP10CDF_v5_final.pdf
- Community pharmacists to be alerted to urgent prescriptions via NHS email marked urgent
- GPs can personally administer medicines to patients – practice held stocks can be used on home visits or in urgent situations can be issued to patients if properly labelled in accordance with medicines legislation. Storage must be in a locked bag or box. Drugs should be signed in and out by a doctor with a mechanism for recording what has been issued. Drugs at present cannot be re-used so do not issue large quantities to patients. **Rules on storage of controlled drugs have not been relaxed** at this time. Drugs can be sourced via a local community pharmacy or via a wholesaler. Advice on medicines governance arrangements is available via the medicines management team on voycg.rxline@nhs.net (Vale of York) or nyccg.rxline@nhs.net (North Yorkshire)