

PAIN AT THE END OF LIFE

Is patient already on opioid drugs and unable to tolerate or absorb oral medication?

YES

Patient on Oral Morphine/Oramorph

Divide 24 hour total dose of current oral Morphine by 2 and prescribe this as Morphine (mgs) via a syringe pump over 24 hours
Prescribe 1/6th Morphine syringe pump dose for breakthrough/rescue medication to be given hourly if needed
Start syringe pump 4 hours before next oral opioid dose would have been due

Stop oral opioid dose

Review within 24 hours

If extra medication has been needed for pain

Increase syringe pump dose by total amount of rescue Morphine given or by 30% to 50% whichever is **less**

Adjust rescue/breakthrough medication to 1/6th of the syringe pump dose to be given hourly if needed

**If pain is controlled make NO changes
continue to review dose requirements regularly**

Patient on weak opioid

(e.g. Codeine, Tramadol, Dihydrocodeine)

Stop oral weak opioid

Start Morphine 10mg/24hrs by syringe pump soon after last oral dose

Prescribe Morphine 2.5mg sub-cut hourly if needed for rescue/breakthrough pain

Review regularly and adjust as above

Fentanyl Patch:

Continue patch and supplement with s/c Diamorphine prn. Add in a syringe pump if needed

Renal impairment: eGFR<30 Seek advice

NO

Scenario One: "Planning Ahead"

Patient NOT IN pain

Prescribe Morphine 2.5mg sub-cut hourly if needed

If patient later develops pain proceed to next box

Scenario Two: "Act Now"

Patient IN pain

Give Morphine 2.5mg sub-cut stat

Prescribe and start Morphine 10mg/24hrs by syringe pump

Prescribe Morphine 2.5mg sub-cut for rescue/breakthrough pain to be given hourly if needed

Review within 24 hours

If extra medication has been needed for pain

Increase syringe pump dose by total amount of rescue medication given or to 20mg/24hrs whichever is **less**

Increase rescue/breakthrough dose of Morphine to 5mg sub-cut to be given hourly if needed

If pain is controlled make NO changes

Review within 24 hours

If extra medication has been needed for pain:

Increase syringe pump dose by total amount of rescue Morphine given or by 30% - 50% whichever is **less**

Adjust rescue/breakthrough dose to 1/6th of syringe pump Morphine dose to be given hourly if needed

**If pain is controlled make NO changes
continue to review dose requirements regularly**

If symptoms persist or you need help contact the Palliative Care Team or Severn Hospice Tel: 01743 236 565