



List 2: PBS Doctor's bag medication – Palliative care.

WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network Essential palliative care medication lists for community pharmacists and general practitioners



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MEDICATION	FORMULATION	PRESENTATION	PBS QTY	PALLIATIVE CARE INDICATION	ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION	USUAL DOSE RANGE
atropine	injection	600 micrograms in 1mL	10	Drying respiratory secretions	subcutaneous injection or infusion	Stat dose: 600 micrograms Ongoing therapy: 1200-2000 microgram daily by infusion
benztropine	injection	2 mg in 2 mL	5	Reversing extrapyramidal drug reaction	intramuscular or intravenous	Stat dose: 1 mg Repeat after 30 minutes if needed
clonazepam	drops	2.5 mg per 1 mL	1	Seizure management OR anxiety OR delirium in combination with haloperidol	oral or sublingual	Stat dose: 0.5 - 1 mg Ongoing therapy: 0.5 -1 mg bd
dexamethasone	injection	8 mg in 2 mL	5	Multiple indications including bowel obstruction, spinal cord compression, pain, vomiting	subcutaneous injection	Stat dose: 2-16 mg
haloperidol	injection	5 mg in 1 mL	10	Vomiting OR delirium	subcutaneous injection or infusion	Stat dose: 0.5-2.5 mg Ongoing therapy: 1-5 mg daily by infusion
hyoscine butylbromide	injection	20 mg in 1 mL	5	Colic OR drying respiratory secretions	subcutaneous injection or infusion	Stat dose: 20 mg Ongoing dose: 80-120 mg daily by infusion
metoclopramide	injection	10 mg in 2 mL	10	Vomiting	subcutaneous injection or infusion	Stat dose: 10 mg Ongoing dose: 30-60 mg daily by infusion
morphine	injection	30 mg in 1 mL	5	Pain OR dyspnoea	subcutaneous injection or infusion	Stat dose: 2.5-5 mg if opioid naive OR 1/6 th -1/12 th of current daily subcutaneous dose
naloxone	injection	2 mg in 5 mL	1	Reversing opioid induced hypoxaemia	intravenous injection or infusion	100 microgram repeated every 2 mins as needed followed by infusion
promethazine	injection	50 mg in 2 mL	10	Vomiting OR allergic reaction	intramuscular injection or subcutaneous injection or infusion	Stat dose: 6.25-12.5 mg Ongoing dose: 12.5-50 mg daily by infusion

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**Good palliative care involves anticipatory sourcing
of medications and pre-emptive prescribing**

List 1: Recommended palliative care medications to be stocked by community pharmacies

MEDICATION	FORMULATION	ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION	PRESENTATION	ESTIMATED COST TO PATIENT	COMMON PALLIATIVE CARE INDICATION	USUAL DOSE RANGE
amitriptyline	tablets	oral	10 mg 25 mg	PBS PBS	neuropathic pain	10-50 mg nocte
bisacodyl	tablets suppositories	oral rectal	5 mg 10 mg	PBS Auth (PC) PBS Auth (PC)	constipation	5-10 mg nocte – bd 10 - 20 mg mane prn
clonazepam	tablets drops injection	oral oral or sublingual subcutaneous injection or infusion	500 microgram 2.5 mg per 1 mL 1 mg in 1 mL	PBS Auth (PC) PBS Auth (PC) PBS (epilepsy) or \$25 for 5 amps	seizure management OR anxiety OR neuropathic pain	0.5-1 mg daily - bd
dexamethasone	tablets injection	oral subcutaneous injection	4 mg 8 mg in 2 mL	PBS PBS	many indications (eg. pain, nausea/vomiting, appetite)	0.5-16 mg mane
docusate + senna	tablets	oral	50 mg + 8 mg	\$14 for 90 tabs	constipation	1-3 tablets nocte - tds
fentanyl	patches	transdermal	12 microgram per hr 25 microgram per hr	PBS PBS	pain (after dose stabilisation with another opioid)	Titrate according to pain severity
haloperidol	tablets injection	oral subcutaneous injection or infusion	500 microgram 1.5 mg 5 mg in 1 mL	PBS PBS PBS	nausea/vomiting OR delirium	0.5-2.5 mg daily - bd
hydromorphone	injection	subcutaneous injection or infusion	2mg in 1 mL	PBS	pain (when morphine not appropriate)	Titrate according to pain severity
hyoscine butylbromide	injection	subcutaneous injection or infusion	20 mg in 1 mL	PBS Auth (PC)	colic pain OR drying secretions	20 mg tds prn 60-80 mg daily by infusion
hyoscine hydrobromide	injection	subcutaneous injection or infusion	400 microgram in 1 mL	\$56 for 5 amps	drying secretions	400-800 micrograms tds prn 800-1600 micrograms daily by infusion
lorazepam	tablets	oral or sublingual	1 mg	\$30 for 50 tabs	anxiety OR nausea/ vomiting	0.5-1 mg prn or bd
macrogol (Movicol)	sachets	oral		PBS	constipation	1-2 sachets nocte - tds
metoclopramide	tablets injection	oral subcutaneous injection or infusion	10 mg 10 mg in 2 mL	PBS PBS	nausea/vomiting	10 mg tds – qid 30-60 mg daily by infusion
midazolam	injection	subcutaneous injection or infusion	5 mg in 1 mL 15 mg in 3 mL	\$25 for 10 amps \$33 for 5 amps	seizure management OR anxiety OR sedation	0.5-1mg prn 5-20 mg daily by infusion
morphine	mixture controlled release tablets injection	oral oral subcutaneous injection or infusion	5 mg per 1 mL 10 mg 30 mg 10 mg in 1 mL 30 mg in 1 mL 120 mg in 1.5 mL	PBS PBS PBS PBS PBS	pain	Initial dose 5 mg every 4 hours PLUS 5 mg 1 hourly prn (smaller dose in elderly). Then increase dose gradually as needed Titrate according to pain severity
naloxone	injection	intravenous	2 mg in 5 mL	PBS	reversal of opioid induced hypoxaemia	100 microgram repeated every 2 mins as needed followed by infusion
nystatin	oral liquid	topical	100 000 units per 1mL	PBS	oral candidiasis	1-2 mL swirled around mouth qid
oxycodone	liquid capsules controlled release	oral oral oral	5 mg per 5 mL 5 mg 10 mg	PBS PBS PBS	pain	Initial dose 5 mg every 4 hours PLUS 5 mg 1 hourly prn (smaller dose in elderly) Then increase dose gradually as needed Titrate according to pain severity
paracetamol	elixir tablets controlled release suppositories	oral oral oral rectal	240 mg per 5 mL 500 mg 665 mg 500 mg	PBS PBS PBS Auth (PC) PBS Auth (PC)	pain	1 g qid 1.33 g tds 1 g qid
promethazine	tablets injection	oral intramuscular or subcutaneous injection subcutaneous infusion	10 mg 50 mg in 2 mL	PBS Auth (PC) PBS Auth	nausea/vomiting OR allergic reaction	10 mg bd - tds 6.25-12.5 mg tds prn 12.5-50 mg daily by infusion
senna	tablets	oral	7.5 mg		constipation	7.5-30 mg nocte
sodium valproate	elixir enteric coated	oral oral	200 mg per 5 mL 200 mg 500 mg	PBS PBS	neuropathic pain OR seizure management	200-500 mg tds
sodium chloride	injection	subcutaneous or nebulised	0.9% 10 mL	PBS	dilution of ampoules for infusion OR nebulisation	
water for injection	injection	subcutaneous	10mL	PBS	dilution of ampoules for infusion	

PBS: available on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme PBS Auth (PC): available on Palliative Care section of PBS

WA Therapeutics Advisory Group endorsed

Prices June 2011 *May alternatively be kept by GP on PBS Doctor's Bag order