



Management of respiratory distress for adult patients dying with COVID-19

BEFORE using these recommendations please clarify patient's GOALS OF CARE
These recommendations are consistent with:
Goals of Care - Optimal comfort treatment - including care of the dying

Is patient currently taking ≥ 30 mg morphine oral equivalent/day?

NO

YES

Infusion device available?

Call palliative care service for advice

YES

NO

Give stat SUBCUT doses of:
morphine 2.5-5 mg + midazolam 2.5-5 mg
+ haloperidol 1 mg

AND

Start SUBCUT or IV infusion
over 24 hours of:
morphine 15-30 mg +
midazolam 10-20 mg + haloperidol 1 mg

Give regular SUBCUT doses of:
morphine 2.5-5 mg every 4 hours +
clonazepam 0.5-1 mg every 24 hours +
haloperidol 1 mg every 24 hours

AND

Prescribe morphine SUBCUT 2.5-5 mg 1 hourly prn for extra/breakthrough dyspnoea

**IF THERE IS AN INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS
CALL FOR ASSISTANCE FROM PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE**