

Hospice comfort medications:

Morphine sulfate 20mg/ml liquid; 5 mg (0.25cc) po/sl every 1 hour as needed for pain or shortness of breath. (Start with 2.5 mg (0.125cc) dose in opiate naïve patients).

Lorazepam 2mg/ml liquid; 0.5 mg (0.25cc) po/sl every 2 hours as needed for anxiety.

Haloperidol 2mg/ml liquid; 0.5mg (0.25cc) po/sl every 2 hours as needed for nausea or agitation. (Yes! It works well for nausea at end of life)

Atropine ophthalmic drops; 2 drops sublingually q 2 hours as needed for hyper secretions.

Opioid Equivalency Pearls:

Hydrocodone is equivalent to oral morphine in opiate strength

ie. Hydrocodone 5mg = oral morphine sulfate 5 mg

Oxycodone is 50% stronger than oral morphine

ie. Oxycodone 5mg = oral morphine sulfate 7.5mg

Oral hydromorphone is five time stronger than oral morphine

ie. oral hydromorphone 2 mg = oral morphine sulfate 10 mg

IV morphine is 2-3 times stronger than oral morphine

ie. IV Morphine 2 mg = oral morphine 5 mg

IV Hydromorphone is 20 times stronger than oral morphine

ie. IV hydromorphone 1mg = oral morphine 20 mg