

## Comfort Medications

FOR PAIN/BREATHLESSNESS		
Medication and Strength	Dose and Administration	Symptoms to Watch for:
Morphine 20mg/mL	5mg (0.25mL) orally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facial Grimacing</li> <li>2. Moaning, restlessness, shielding/guarding body area</li> <li>3. Increased irritability or agitation due to pain or breathlessness</li> <li>4. Rapid and/or labored breathing</li> <li>5. Complaints of pain/breathlessness</li> </ol> <p><b>Try this First:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Repositioning</li> <li>2. Check briefs, bed linens, catheters</li> <li>3. Redirect (if anxious): Music, TV, other activity</li> <li>4. Check oxygen tubing (if in use)</li> <li>5. Elevate head of bed 30 degrees</li> <li>6. Open a window or have a fan lightly blowing on face (for breathlessness)</li> </ol>
Hydromorphone 1mg/mL	1mg (1mL) orally	
Oxycodone 5mg tabs	5mg (1 tab) orally*	
Call nurse if symptoms not improving after 30 minutes	<p><i>*if unable to swallow, crush and dissolve in warm H2O</i></p> <p>May repeat dosing of ANY of above <b>every one hour</b> as needed</p>	

FOR SECRETIONS		
Medication and Strength	Dose and Administration	Symptoms to Watch for:
Atropine Sulfate 1% drops	2 drops under the tongue	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Persistent drooling</li> <li>2. Gurgling, wet respirations</li> </ol> <p><b>Try this First:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reposition to one side or the other, avoiding flat on the back</li> <li>2. Elevate head of bed to 30 degrees</li> <li>3. Provide oral care with oral swab/toothette</li> </ol>
Hyoscyamine 0.125mg tabs	0.25mg (2 tabs) orally*	
Call nurse if symptoms not improving after 2-4 hours	<p><i>*If unable to swallow, crush and dissolve in warm H2O</i></p> <p>May repeat dosing of ANY of above every <b>2-4 hours</b> as needed</p>	

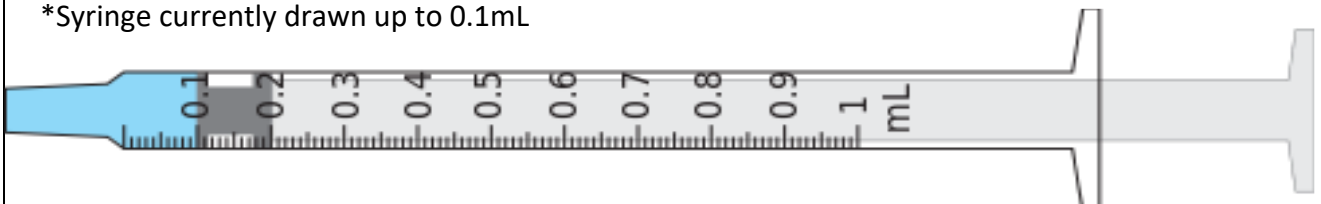
FOR CONSTIPATION		
Medication and Strength	Dose and Administration	Symptoms to Watch for:
Senna 8.6mg tabs	8.6mg (1 tab) orally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decrease in normal stool pattern</li> <li>2. Increased straining and/or hard stools</li> <li>3. Complaints of lower abdominal pressure/fullness/discomfort</li> </ol>
Lactulose 10gm/15mL syrup	10gm (15mL=1 TBSP) orally	

Call nurse if symptoms not improving after 1-2 days	May repeat dosing of ANY of above up to <b>twice a day</b> as needed	<b>Try This First:</b> 1. Increase fluid intake 2. Add prunes/prune juice to daily diet 3. Increase physical activity (i.e. walking)
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FOR ANXIETY/BREATHLESSNESS		
Medication and Strength	Dose and Administration	Symptoms to Watch for:
Lorazepam 2mg/mL	0.5mg (0.25mL) orally	1. Unable to sit/lay quietly 2. Increased irritability 3. Abnormal or increased fidgeting 4. Complaints of breathlessness, rapid and/or labored breathing 5. Inability to sleep  <b>Try this First:</b> 1. Redirect (if anxious): Music, TV or other activity 2. Repositioning 3. Decrease environmental stimuli 4. Open a window or have a fan lightly blowing on face (for breathlessness)
Lorazepam 1mg tabs	0.5mg (1/2 tab) orally*	
Call nurse if symptoms not improving after 30 minutes	<i>*If unable to swallow, crush and dissolve in warm H2O</i>  May repeat dosing of ANY of above every <b>2 hours</b> as needed	

FOR AGITATION/NAUSEA		
Medication and Strength	Dose and Administration	Symptoms to Watch for:
Haloperidol 2mg/mL	0.5mg (0.25mL) orally	1. Nausea, even without vomiting 2. Active vomiting 3. Persistent hiccups 4. Restlessness/angry statements 5. Resistance/combativeness with care 6. Distressing hallucinations  <b>Try this First:</b> 1. Nausea: Cool cloth on forehead/neck 2. Nausea: Fan blowing lightly on face 3: Agitation: Change caregiver/distract 4. Provide calm, soothing atmosphere
Call nurse if symptoms not improving after 30 minutes	May repeat dosing of above every <b>2 hours</b> as needed	

\*Syringe currently drawn up to 0.1mL



<b>Please Note:</b>		
* <b>Milliliter (mL)</b> is a measurement of liquid volume in a syringe	<b><u>A milliliter is not equal to a milligram.</u></b> The measurements on a syringe are in <u>milliliters</u> , NOT <u>milligrams</u> . The amount of medication in milligrams is NOT reflected on this syringe.	Draw up and administer medications based on how many <b>milliliters</b> are needed to give the correct milligram dosage of a medication. Call Hospice if you have concerns about administering the correct amount of medication.
* <b>Milligram (mg)</b> is a measurement of the strength of a medication		
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