

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



| 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 |

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



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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

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

WA Therapeutics Advisory Group endorsed