

Fact Sheet: Common Palliative Care Drugs



Analgesia

Opioids

Morphine -

Prescribe using the generic and not the brand name to enable the most cost effective product to be dispensed.

- PO: Zomorph® MR 10mg caps (x60) = **£2.15** vs. MST® MR 10mg (x60) = **£4.37**

Morphine vs. Oxycodone -

Use PO morphine 1st line. Oxycodone should only be used if morphine is not tolerated or contraindicated

- PO: Zomorph® 30mg (x60) = **£3.59** vs. OxyContin® 20mg (x56) = **£60.10**
- PO: Oramorph® 10mg/5mL (x100mL) = £0.82 vs. OxyNorm® 5mg in 5mL (250mL) = **£5.86**
- PO: Sevredol® 10mg tabs (x60) = **£6.05** vs. OxyNorm® 5mg caps (x56) = **£8.92**

Fentanyl vs. Buprenorphine—

If needing >15microgram per hour of buprenorphine TD consider switching to fentanyl TD patch when clinically appropriate.

Fentanyl TD Patches (X5)	Buprenorphine TD Patches (X4)
100micrograms - £4.80	70micrograms - £30.34
75micrograms - £4.08	52.5micrograms - £22.76
37.5micrograms - £12.00	35micrograms - £9.48
50micrograms - £2.10	20micrograms - £55.16
25micrograms - £2.28	10micrograms - £30.29
12micrograms - £1.20	5micrograms - £16.90

Adjuvants

Gabapentin vs. Pregabalin—

Use gabapentin where possible. Pregabalin should only be considered if amitriptyline & gabapentin are not clinically indicated, or if significant tablet burden after rationalisation of ALL medication.

- PO: Gabapentin 100mg (x100) = **£1.22** vs. Pregabalin 25mg (Lyrica®) (x56) = **£71.49**
- PO: Gabapentin 300mg (x100) = **£1.97** vs. Pregabalin 75mg (Lyrica®) (x 56) = **£71.49**

Lidocaine 5% plasters—LHTT has recently switched to Lidocaine 700mg medicated plaster (Ralvo®).

Use for patients with localised allodynia only. Re-evaluate after 2 to 4 weeks and stop if ineffective. Patients on long term therapy should be assessed for continued need.

- Lidocaine 5% plasters = **£80.80** (x 30), no smaller packs - very expensive as a discharge prescription!

Anticipatory Prescribing Prescription

Think - Hospices do **not** require anticipatory meds that patients have not been administered

Anti-emetics and antipsychotics

Use the following cost considerations only when there is clinical equipoise between drug choices

Levomepromazine

- PO: 6mg tabs (ULM) = **£28.80** (x 28), 25mg = **£22.61** (x 84)
- SC: 25mg in mL = **£7.44** (x10 amps)

Haloperidol

- PO: 1.5mg tabs = **£0.96** (x 28)
- SC: 5mg in 1mL = **£40.89** (x10), 5mg in 1mL (ULM) = **£55.04** (x10 amps)

Metoclopramide

- PO: 10mg tabs = **£0.16** (x28)
- SC: 10mg in 2mL = **£0.70** (x 5 amps)

Cyclizine

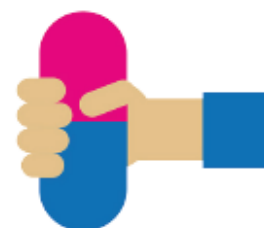
- PO: 50mg = **£4.74**(x100)
- SC: 50mg in 1mL = **£15.60** (x 5 amps)

Ondansetron

- SC: 4mg in 2mL = **£1.06** (x 10) , 8mg in 4mL amp = **£0.97** (x 5 amps)

Granisetron

- SC: 1mg/mL in 1mL = **£2.28** (x 5) , 3mL = **£5.04** (x 5)
- Granisetron patches = **£67.20** FOR ONE PATCH



Laxatives

Co-danthramer is no more effective than other laxative combinations. Consider other laxatives alone or in combination.

- **Movicol** sachets (x30) = **£2.70**
- **Senna** tablets (x 100) = **£2.40** / 150ml bottle **£3.48?**
- **Lactulose** 300mL = **£1.28**
- **Sodium docusate** caps (x100) = **£8.38**,
- **Sodium picosulphate** sachets (x2) - **£2.15**, 300mL Elixir = **£4.78**
- **Codanthramer (Strong)** 75mg/1000mg in 5mL (x 300mL) = **£246.00**

Management of seizures in dying patient

Levetiracetam (Keppra®) SC: 500mg in 5mL IV infusion = **£142.56** (x 10 amps) vs

Midazolam SC: 10mg in 2mL = **£13.78** (x 10 amps)

Levetiracetam is possibly less sedating anti-epileptic at the end of life, although little evidence. Midazolam can continued to be used for the majority of patients with/at risk of seizures at the end of life; levetiracetam to be used with clinical justification.

