

PALLIATIVE CARE TIPS

Issue # 20 Commonly Administered Sub-Cutaneous Medications in Palliative Care

(Collect them all)

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Page 1 of 2

Generic Name & Available Strengths	Trade Name	Comments
Opioids		
FENTANYL CITRATE 50 mcg/mL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuous infusion – titrate • +/- intermittent injection for BTP • 7-day expiry for diluted solutions protected from light
HYDROMORPHONE HCl HP – 10 mg/ml HP Plus – 20 mg/ml XP – 50 mg/ml + sterile powder	Dilaudid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermittent injection +/- continuous infusions • can be irritating with ↑ concentration & ↑ volume of injection • 30-day expiry for diluted solutions
MORPHINE SO4 2, 10, 15 & 50 mg/mL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermittent injection +/- continuous infusion • 30-day expiry when diluted
OXYCODONE HCl		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not commercially available in Canada • intermittent injection +/- continuous infusion • conc. > 50 mg/mL are irritating (irritation ↑ with ↑ volume & conc.) • 30-day expiry when diluted
Sedatives		
HALOPERIDOL 5 mg/mL	Haldol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do NOT dilute with normal saline
LORAZEPAM 4 mg/mL	Ativan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refrigerate ampoules
LOXAPINE 50 mg/mL	Loxapac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if administering small volumes: dilute further with sterile water for injection or use a dedicated primed butterfly site
METHOTRIMEPRAZINE 25 mg/mL	Nozinan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • burns – administer slowly
MIDAZOLAM 5 mg/mL	Versed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prn +/- continuous infusion – titrate • 14-day expiry for diluted solutions
Anti-Nauseants (See also Miscellaneous & Sedatives sections)		
DIMENHYDRINATE 50 mg/mL	Gravol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • irritating – give slowly
METOCLOPRAMIDE 5 mg/mL	Maxeran Reglan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermittent +/- continuous infusion • irritating for some patients • administer slowly & rotate sites • 48-hour expiry for diluted solutions
ONDANSETRON 2 mg/mL	Zofran	
PROCHLORPERAZINE 5 mg/mL	Stemetil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • irritating

Generic Name & Available Strengths	Trade Name	Comments
GI Medications		
FAMOTIDINE 10 mg/mL	Pepcid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermittent • refrigerate ampoules
HYOSCINE BUTYLBROMIDE 20 mg/mL	Buscopan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermittent +/- continuous infusion
OCTREOTIDE (SOMATOSTATIN ANALOGUE) 100, 200, & 500 mcg/mL	Sandostatin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refrigerate ampoules • rotate sites to minimize pain
RANITIDINE 25 mg/mL	Zantac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermittent
Miscellaneous		
BENZTROPINE 1 mg/mL	Cogentin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermittent
CALCITONIN 200 iu/mL	Calcimar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refrigerate ampoules • intermittent
CLODRONATE 30, 60 mg/mL	Bonfos Ostac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1500 mg in 250 mL D5W or NS over 4 hours (for hypercalcemia, NS is preferred – consider using 500-1000 mL to optimize hydration) • 12 – 24 hour expiry depending on product • can be irritating (less with ↓ conc.)
DEXAMETHASONE 4, 10 mg/mL	Dexasone Decadron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • irritating: administer slowly • precipitates other medications
ERYTHROPOIETIN 2000 u/0.5 mL or 4000 u/0.4 mL	Eprex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refrigerate
FUROSEMIDE 10 mg/mL	Lasix	
MAGNESIUM SULFATE 500 mg/mL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only by large volume infusion
NALOXONE 0.4 mg/mL	Narcan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • onset slightly slower than IV (2 – 5 min. vs. 1 – 2 min.)
PHENOBARBITAL 30, 120 mg/mL		
POTASSIUM CHLORIDE 2 mEq/mL	KCl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can be irritating • ONLY be large volume infusion
SCOPOLAMINE (HYOSCINE HBr) 0.4, 0.6 mg/mL		

REMEMBER: For referrals, questions, or telephone consultations call 496-1300 weekdays and weekends.

Palliative Care Tips are now available on our Website: www.palliative.org