

PALLIATIVE CARE MEDICATIONS COMMONLY USED SUBCUTANEOUSLY

DRUG	STABILITY/ STORAGE	INCOMPATIBILITY	COMPATIBILITY IN CLYSIS SOLUTION (CSCI)	COMPATIBILITY IN SAME SYRINGE	COMPATIBILITY IN Y-SITE	COMMENTS	NURSING IMPLICATIONS
CLODRONATE (e.g. Bonefos, Ostac)	Extemporaneous prepared solutions in NS or D5W: <i>Expiry:</i> Bonefos- 24 hours at RT Ostac - 12 hours at RT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare immediately prior to administration 					Current practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1500 mg in D5W 100 mL <u>or</u> 250 - 500 mL NS infuse over 4-6 hours¹ Flush line after Clodronate finished Local reaction may occur² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sc use not addressed by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High incidence of irritation May decrease irritation by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> using the most dilute solution possible increasing time of administration applying hot packs to site Usually redness at site
DEXAMETHASONE SODIUM PHOSPHATE (e.g. Decadron)	Intact Vials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect from light Polypropylene Syringes (undiluted): <i>Expiry:</i> 30 days refrigerated	Diazepam Diphenhydramine Glycopyrrolate Haloperidol ²⁰ Hydromorphone (see compatibility) Midazolam Ondansetron (variable - concentration dependent)		With 4 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydromorphone ≤ 40 mg/mL for 24 hours at room temperature: Note: variable reports, especially at higher concentrations, have produced a precipitate Ketorolac 30 mg/mL for up to 12 hours Metoclopramide 10 mg/2 mL: 48 hours, RT Oxycodone 1-10 mg/mL: 24 hrs.¹¹ Ranitidine 50 mg/5 mL: 4 hours 	Dexamethasone 4 mg/mL for 4 hours at room temperature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl 50 mcg/mL 1:1 in D5W up to 24 hours KCl 40 mmol/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sc use not recommended by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current practice: intermittent sc injection¹⁵ Contains sodium bisulfite, monitor for potential allergic-type reactions May cause local burning, irritation³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sc use not recommended by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be irritating Administer very slowly Better through clysis site Consider using separate site.
FENTANYL CITRATE (e.g. Sublimase)	Intact Ampuls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store at room temperature Protect from light Extemporaneous prepared solutions in NS or D5W: <i>Expiry:</i> 7 days refrigerated ⁵ <i>Label:</i> Protect From Light Pharmacia Cassettes 20 mcg/mL in NS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 days refrigerated or room temperature Polypropylene Syringes (undiluted): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 days at RT 	Phenytoin	Midazolam 1 mg/mL in NS with 40 mcg/mL: 4 days RT ⁸	With 50 mcg/mL compatible for at least 15 minutes at room temperature (unless indicated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dimenhydrinate 50 mg/mL Glycopyrrolate 0.2 mg/mL⁶ Metoclopramide 10 mg/2mL Midazolam 5 mg/mL + Fentanyl 100 mcg/2mL: 4 hours, RT Ranitidine 50 mg/2 mL: 1 hour, RT Scopolamine HBr 0.4 mg/mL - 0.6 mg/mL 	With 50 mcg/mL Fentanyl with both drugs (1:1 mixture) for 24 hours at room temperature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dexamethasone 4 mg/mL in D5W Furosemide 10 mg/mL KCl 40 mmol/L: 4 hours Midazolam 5 mg/mL 	Current Practice: intermittent sc injection and CSCI ¹⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sc use not addressed by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify breakthrough dose technique when using continuous drips.

RT = Room Temperature

Clysis = Hypodermoclysis

CSCI = Continuous Subcutaneous Infusion

Blank Space = No Available Documented Information



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FUROSEMIDE (e.g. Lasix)	Intact Ampuls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect from light Store at room temperature Precipitate/crystals form if refrigerated – okay to warm or resolubilize at room temperature Do not use if solution is yellow Polypropylene Syringes (undiluted): Expiry: 24 hours at room temperature Label: Protect From Light	Chlorpromazine Diazepam Diphenhydramine Famotidine (concentration dependent) Gentamicin Metoclopramide Midazolam Morphine (concentration dependent) Ondansetron Thiamine Tobramycin			With 10 mg/mL at RT for 4 hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl 50 mcg/mL: 24 hours Hydromorphone 1 mg/mL KCl 40 mmol/L 	Onset of diuresis 30 min. (vs. 5 min. for IV and 30-60 min. for oral) and persists for ~ 4 hrs. (vs. 2 hrs. for IV and 6-8 hours for oral) ¹⁰ . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sc use not addressed by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better through clysis site especially larger volume doses Consider using separate site Flush with normal saline after administration Transient burning and stinging (~ 10 min.) - inject slowly¹⁰
GLYCOPYRROLATE (e.g. Robinul)	Polypropylene syringes (undiluted): Expiry: 90 days at 4 ^o or 25 ^o C	Dexamethasone Diazepam Dimenhydrinate Pentazocine Phenobarbital Sodium Bicarbonate Normal Saline – variable reports ¹³		With 0.2 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codeine 30 mg/mL Fentanyl 50 mcg/mL⁶ Hydromorphone 2 mg/mL Lorazepam 2-4 mg/mL: 48 hr at 25^oC⁶ Midazolam 5 mg/mL: 4 hr at 25^oC Morphine Sulfate 15 mg/mL: 48 hrs., RT Ranitidine 50 mg/2mL: 1 hr at 25^oC Scopolamine 0.4 mg/mL 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current practice: intermittent sc sc use reported^{13, 19} following sc injection effects evident within 15-30 min. and peak within 30-45 min.⁴ sc use not addressed by manufacturer 	
HALOPERIDOL LACTATE (e.g. Haldol)	Intact Ampuls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store at room temperature Protect from light and freezing Extemporaneous prepared solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not dilute with NS² ≥ 1 mg/mL – precipitate forms 	Benztropine Dexamethasone ²⁰ Diphenhydramine Heparin Hydromorphone (see compatibility) Hydroxyzine Ketorolac Magnesium Sulfate Morphine Sulfate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydromorphone 1-10 mg/mL with 5 mg/mL 24 hours at room temperature Note: Haloperidol + Hydromorphone (i.e. 50 mg/5 mL) crystalized in one hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorazepam: 2 mg/mL + Haloperidol 5 mg/mL 16 hrs., RT Morphine HCL: 7 days, see incompatibility Oxycodone 1-10 mg/mL + Haloperidol 0.6 mg/mL: 24 hrs.¹¹ 	With 5 mg/mL at RT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midazolam 5 mg/mL: 24 hrs. With 0.2 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ondansetron 1 mg/mL: 4 hrs. 	Current Practice: Intermittent sc injection ¹⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sc use not recommended by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate site Irritating Monitor site closely – requires frequent re-site due to irritation to tissue

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HYDROMORPHONE	<p>Intact Ampuls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do NOT refrigerate – precipitates/ crystals form → OK to use when resolubilized Slight yellow color is NOT associated with decreased potency <p>Extemporaneous prepared solutions in NS or D5W (current practice): <i>Expiry:</i> 30 days refrigerated <i>Label:</i> Protect From Light</p> <p>Pharmacia Cassettes 1- 50 mg/mL in NS or D5W: <i>Expiry:</i> 30 days refrigerated</p> <p>Polypropylene Syringes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1 mg - 10 mg/mL with NS: 30 days at RT 	Dexamethasone (see compatibility) Diazepam Dimenhydrinate (see compatibility) Haloperidol (see compatibility) Phenobarbital Phenytoin Prochlorperazine (see compatibility) Sodium Bicarbonate		<p>With variable concentrations for 24 hours at room temperature (unless indicated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dexamethasone 4 mg/mL + HM ≤ 40 mg/mL <i>Note:</i> variable reports, especially at higher concentrations, have produced a precipitate. Dimenhydrinate 50 mg/mL + HM ≤ 40 mg/mL: (precipitate forms after 24 hours) Glycopyrrolate 0.2 mg/mL + HM 2 mg/mL: 48 hrs. Haloperidol 5 mg/mL + HM 1-10 mg/mL <i>Note:</i> Haloperidol + HM 50 mg/5mL crystalized in one hour. Ketorolac Lorazepam Midazolam 5 mg/mL + HM 2 mg/0.5 mL: 4 hours, RT Prochlorperazine Mesylate 5 mg/mL + HM ≤ 40 mg/mL: 7 days at all temps. Ranitidine 50 mg/2 mL + HM 2 mg/mL: 1 hour, RT Scopolamine HBr 0.4mg/0.5 mL + HM 4 mg/2 mL: 30 mins, RT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furosemide: 10 mg/mL: 4 hrs. Metoclopramide 5 mg/mL + HM 0.5-10 mg/mL: 48 hours, RT⁶ 	Current Practice: intermittent sc and/or CSCI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May cause pain at site, local irritation and induration, particularly when repeated in the same area² Higher concentrations and volumes may be associated with discomfort. To minimize local adverse reaction of highly concentrated solutions, sc injection to be made with a short 30 gauge needle⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does burn - administer slowly Administer via clysis line if possible
HYOSCINE BUTYLBROMIDE (e.g. Buscopan)	<p>Extemporaneous prepared solutions in D5W or NS: <i>Expiry:</i> 24 hours at RT <i>Label:</i> Protect From Light</p>			With 4 mg/mL: Oxycodone 1-10 mg/mL: 24 hrs. ¹¹			

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LOXAPINE (e.g. Loxapac)	Intact Ampul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercially available as 50 mg/mL only 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If administering small doses (i.e. 5 mg): 1. May further dilute (maximum concentration mixed 1:10) with Sterile Water for Injection (SWFI) immediately prior to administration (i.e. for 5 mg/mL dose: withdraw 0.1 mL and qs to 1 mL with SWFI) Note: mix thoroughly in syringe and inspect for fine white precipitate prior to use⁵ 2. May prime dead space of indwelling needle and tubing with loxapine and then inject appropriate dose⁹ sc use not addressed by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If using the primed site method: must have its own site
METHOTRIMEPRAZINE (e.g. Nozinan) (alternate name: Levomepromazine)	Intact Ampuls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store at room temperature Protect from light 	Heparin Ranitidine		With 10 mg/2mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metoclopramide 10 mg/2 mL: 15 min, RT Scopolamine HBr With 7 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxycodone 1-10 mg/mL: 24 hrs.¹¹ 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Practice: intermittent sc injection¹⁷ several reports of sc admin.⁶ sc use not addressed by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns, irritates skin – administer slowly Flush with normal saline after administering Utilize clysis line if available Monitor site closely
METOCLOPRAMIDE (e.g. Maxeran)	Intact Vial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect from light and freezing Extemporaneous prepared solutions in NS or D5W (current practice): <i>Expiry:</i> 48 hours at room temperature <i>Label:</i> Protect From Light & Freezing Note: IV tubing not required to be protected from light Polypropylene Syringes (undiluted) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 days refrigerated 60 days at room temperature 7 days at 32°C 	Calcium Gluconate Furosemide Sodium Bicarbonate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With 10 mg/2 mL: Magnesium Sulfate 500 mg - 1 g: 48 hrs. With 0.5 mg/ mL: Morphine Sulfate 1 mg/mL in NS: 14 days With 10 mg and 160 mg/L: Potassium Chloride 30 mmol/L: 48 hrs. With 3.4 mg/mL: Oxycodone 1-10 mg/mL: 24 hrs.¹¹ 	With 10 mg/2 mL for 15 minutes at room temperature (unless indicated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benzotropine 2mg/2mL: 48 hrs. Dexamethasone 8 mg/2 mL: 48 hours, RT Dimenhydrinate 50 mg/mL Fentanyl 50 mcg/mL Methotrimeprazine 10 mg/2mL Midazolam 5 mg/mL: 4 hours, RT Morphine Sulfate 10 mg/mL Ondansetron 1mg/mL: 4 hrs. Ranitidine 50 mg/2 mL: 48 hours, RT Scopolamine HBr 0.4 mg/mL With 3.4 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxycodone 1-10 mg/mL: 24 hrs.¹¹ 	With 5 mg/mL for 48 hrs. at RT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl 25 mcg/mL Hydromorphone 0.5-10 mg/mL⁶ Morphine Sulfate 1 mg/mL Ondansetron 1 mg/mL in NS: 4 hrs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sc use reported⁶ sc use not addressed by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns and stings for some patients Administer slowly and change sites Use clysis line if available

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MIDAZOLAM (e.g. Versed)	Intact Vials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store at room temperature Protect from light Extemporaneous prepared solutions Polypropylene Syringe 5 mg/mL (undiluted): Expiry: 36 days at room temperature Label: Protect From Light PVC bag 1 mg/mL in D5W or NS (current practice): Expiry: 14 days at room temperature ¹⁸	Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate Dimenhydrinate Fosphenytoin Furosemide Heparin Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate KCL- variable reports (see Y-site comp. – Potassium Chloride) Ranitidine Sodium Bicarbonate	With 1 mg/mL in NS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl 40 mcg/mL: 4 days, RT⁸ 	With 5 mg/mL for 4 hours at room temperature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atropine 0.4 mg/mL Fentanyl 100 mcg/2mL Glycopyrrolate 0.2 mg/mL Hydromorphone 2 mg/0.5 mL Metoclopramide 10 mg/2mL Morphine Sulfate 5-10 mg/mL Scopolamine HBr 0.4 mg/mL - 0.6 mg/mL With 3 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxycodone 1-10 mg/mL: 24 hrs.¹¹ 	5 mg/mL Midazolam with both drugs (1:1 mixture) for 24 hours at room temperature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl 50 mcg/mL+ MID. 1-5 mg/mL Haloperidol 5 mg/mL Morphine Sulfate 5 mg/mL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Practice: intermittent sc and CSCI¹⁷ May cause pain and local reaction at site³ sc use not recommended by manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For continuous infusion, use separate line
MORPHINE SULFATE	Intact Ampul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect from light and freezing Store at room temperature PVC Bags: Current Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refrigerated: 30 days Room temperature: 14 days Pharmacia Cassettes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 days (in NS or D5W) refrigerated 15 days at RT or 31°C (i.e. close to skin temp) Polypropylene Syringes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69 days at RT Note: Yellow to brown color indicates degradation. Degradation is increased with a neutral or basic pH.	Aminophylline Furosemide Haloperidol (variable reports) Heparin (variable reports) Phenobarbital Phenytoin Sodium Bicarbonate	With 1 mg/mL in NS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metoclopramide 0.5 mg/mL: 14 days Ondansetron 0.1-1 mg/mL: 7 days at 32°C; 31 days at 4 – 22°C 	With Morphine 10 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metoclopramide 10 mg/2 mL: 15 min., RT Midazolam 5 mg/mL: 4 hrs., RT Ranitidine 50 mg/2 mL: 24 hrs. With Morphine 15 mg/mL for 15 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dimenhydrinate 50 mg/mL Diphenhydramine 50 mg/mL Glycopyrrolate 0.2 mg/mL: 48 hrs., RT Scopolamine HBr 0.4 -0.6 mg/mL 	With Morphine 1mg/mL: 4 hrs, RT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnesium Sulfate 17-100 mg/mL Metoclopramide 0.2-5 mg/mL: 48 hrs. Ondansetron 1 mg/mL With Morphine 5 mg/mL : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midazolam 5 mg/mL: 24 hrs., RT With Morphine 15 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCl 40 mmol/L: 4 hrs., RT 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use clysis line if available
NALOXONE (e.g. Narcan)	Intact Ampuls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect from light Store at room temperature Extemporaneous prepared solutions in D5W or NS: Expiry: 24 hours			Ondansetron 1.3 mg/mL + Naloxone 0.13 mg/mL: 24 hrs.		Onset of Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slower with sc route (2 - 5 mins) vs. IV administration (1 - 2 min)⁴ 	
OCTREOTIDE ACETATE (SOMATOSTATIN ANALOG) (e.g. Sandostatin)	Intact Ampuls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refrigerate + DO NOT warm artificially Protect from light 14 days at RT² Polypropylene Syringes (undiluted): Expiry: 30 days refrigerated, 7 days RT					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Practice: intermittent sc¹⁵ May alter blood glucose levels Site should be rotated to minimize pain associated with sc injection⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stings To prevent site reactions, warm to room temp. before injection and inject slowly

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OXYCODONE	Extemporaneous prepared solution: <i>Expiry:</i> 30 days in D5W, NS ^{7,12} <i>Label:</i> Protect From Light	Prochlorperazine Mesylate		With 1-10 mg/mL: 24 hrs. ¹¹ : Dexamethasone 1.3 mg/mL Haloperidol 0.6 mg/mL Hyoscine Butylbromide 4 mg/mL Methotrimeprazine 7 mg/mL Metoclopramide 3.4 mg/mL Midazolam 3 mg/mL Scopolamine HBr 0.9 mg/mL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concentrations > 50 mg/mL may cause site irritation⁷ Current Practice: Intermittent sc use⁷ Parenteral solutions not currently available commercially in Canada but CSCI use reported with UK and Australian products¹¹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritation increases with increased dose and concentration Administer slowly Hot packs to old site when changing decrease redness and soreness
POTASSIUM CHLORIDE (KCl)	Intact Ampuls/Vials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect from freezing Store at room temperature Extemporaneous prepared solutions: <i>Current practice:</i> 30 days RT	Amphotericin B Midazolam -Variable reports (see Y-site compatibility) Phenytoin	With 40 mmol/L with both drugs in NS or 2/3 - 1/3 at room temperature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metoclopramide 10 or 160 mg/L + KCl 30 mmol/L: 48 hours, RT Ranitidine ≤ 2 g/L + KCl ≤ 60 mmol/L: 48 hours, RT Thiamine HCL (Vitamin B₁) 		With Potassium Chloride 40 mmol/L with both drugs in NS or 2/3 - 1/3 at room temperature for 4 hours at room temperature (unless indicated) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dexamethasone 4 mg/mL Fentanyl 50 mcg/mL Furosemide 10 mg/mL Magnesium Sulfate 500 mg/mL (via large-volume clysis only) Morphine Sulfate 15 mg/mL Scopolamine 0.86 mg/mL Vitamin K₁ 10 mg/mL For information only: These concentrations KCl not appropriate for sc use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midazolam 5 mg/mL + 1 mmol/mL KCl: 24 hours Ondansetron 1 mg/mL in NS: KCl 0.1 mmol/mL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For maximum concentration - refer to site-specific parenteral manual monograph for administration policy Do not administer as a bolus dose – must be further diluted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can irritate site Must infuse via large volume clysis

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SCOPOLAMINE HYDROBROMIDE (e.g. Hyoscine HBr)	Intact Ampuls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store at room temperature Protect from light 			With 0.4 mg/mL for 15 minutes at room temperature (unless indicated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dimenhydrinate 50 mg/mL Fentanyl 50 mcg/mL Glycopyrrolate 0.2 mg/mL: 48 hrs. Hydromorphone 4 mg/2mL + Scopolamine 0.4 mg/0.5 mL: 30 min, RT Methotrimeprazine 25 mg/mL Metoclopramide 10 mg/2 mL Midazolam 5 mg/mL: 4 hours Morphine Sulfate 15 mg/mL + 0.4-0.6 mg/mL Scopol. Ranitidine 50 mg/2 mL: 1 hour With 0.9 mg/mL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxycodone 1-10 mg/mL: 24 hrs.¹¹ 	With Scopolamine 0.86 mg/mL in NS or 2/3 - 1/3 for 4 hours at RT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCl 40 mmol/L 		

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Nursing Implications: Nursing Staff of Unit 43 (Palliative Care Unit), Grey Nuns Community Hospital & Health Centre



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