NHS Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group

PAIN AT THE END OF LIFE

Is patient already on opioid drugs and unable to tolerate or absorb oral medication?

YES

Patient on Oral Morphine /Oramorph
Divide 24 hour total dose of current oral Morphine by 3 and prescribe this as Diamorphine (mgs) via a syringe pump over 24 hours
Prescribe 1/6th Diamorphine syringe pump dose for breakthrough/rescue medication to be given hourly if needed
Start syringe pump 4 hours before next oral opioid dose would have been due
Stop oral opioid dose

Review within 24 hours
If extra medication has been needed for pain
Increase syringe pump dose by total amount of rescue Diamorphine given or by 30 to 50% whichever is **less**
Adjust rescue/breakthrough medication to 1/6th of the syringe pump dose to be given hourly if needed
If pain is controlled make NO changes
continue to review dose requirements regularly

Patient on weak opioid
(e.g. Codeine, Tramadol, Dihydrocodeine)
Stop oral weak opioid
Start Diamorphine10mg/24hrs by syringe pump soon after last oral dose
Prescribe Diamorphine 2.5mg sub-cut hourly if needed for rescue/breakthrough pain

Review regularly and adjust as above

Fentanyl Patch:
Continue patch and supplement with s/c Diamorphine prn. Add in a syringe pump if needed
Renal impairment: eGFR<30 Seek advice

NO

Scenario One: "Planning Ahead"
Patient NOT IN pain
Prescribe Diamorphine 2.5mg Sub-cut hourly if needed
If patient later develops pain proceed to next box

Scenario Two: "Act Now"
Patient IN pain
Give Diamorphine 2.5mg sub-cut stat
Prescribe and start Diamorphine 10mg/24hrs by syringe pump
Prescribe Diamorphine 2.5mg sub-cut for rescue/breakthrough pain to be given hourly if needed

Review within 24 hours
If extra medication has been needed for pain

Increase syringe pump dose by total amount of rescue medication given or to 20mg/24hrs whichever is **less**
Increase rescue/breakthrough dose of Diamorphine to 5mg sub-cut to be given hourly if needed
If pain is controlled make NO changes

Review within 24 hours
If extra medication has been needed for pain:
Increase syringe pump dose by total amount of rescue Diamorphine given or by 30 to 50% whichever is **less**
Adjust rescue/breakthrough dose to 1/6th of syringe pump Diamorphine dose to be given hourly if needed
If pain is controlled make NO changes
continue to review dose requirements regularly

If symptoms persist or you need help contact the Palliative Care Team or Severn Hospice Tel: 01743 236 565

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