**Accessing palliative care drugs during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

1. **This document provides a list of drugs considered appropriate for EOL care in patients with COVID:** *this is not clinical guidance – prescribing decisions should be made based on individual clinical needs and with reference to local palliative care pathways and/or NICE guidance* [*NG163*](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng163)
2. **Suggested end of life (EOL) stock list**

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| Morphine sulfate 10mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules  Morphine sulfate 5mg / 10mg modified-release tablets |
| Codeine 15mg / 30mg tablet  Codeine linctus 15mg/5ml oral solution |
| Midazolam 10mg/2ml solution for injection ampoules |
| Levomepromazine 25mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules |
| Hyoscine butylbromide 20 mg/ml injection ampoules |
| Hyoscine hydrobromide 1mg/72hour patch |
| Lorazepam 500micrograms tablets  Lorazepam 1mg tablets |
| Haloperidol 500microgram; 1.5mg; 5mg tablets  Haloperidol 5mg/ml injection ampoules |

1. **Suggested quantities to stock**

* All ***GP practices*** - one original pack of all drugs on list (e.g. 28 tablets)
* All ***community pharmacies and dispensing practices*** –two to three original packs of all drugs on list
* ***OOH services*** to review and increase current stock provision 2-3 fold
* Substitute above medicines if not available – contact local palliative care team or MM team for advice
* Review stock levels daily; reorder and modify stock levels as demand dictates.

1. **Issuing medicines to patients and carers**

* Medicines should be prescribed on FP10 where possible and dispensed via usual routes.
* Community pharmacists to be alerted to urgent prescriptions via NHS email marked urgent
* GPs can personally administer medicines to patients – practice held stocks can be used on home visits or in urgent situations can be issued to patients if properly labelled in accordance with medicines legislation. Storage must be in a locked bag or box. Drugs should be signed in and out by a doctor with a mechanism for recording what has been issued. Drugs at present cannot be re-used so do not issue large quantities to patients. **Rules on storage of controlled drugs have not been relaxed** at this time. Drugs can be sourced via a local community pharmacy or via a wholesaler. Advice on medicines governance arrangements is available via the medicines management team on [voyccg.rxline@nhs.net](mailto:voyccg.rxline@nhs.net) (Vale of York) or [nyccg.rxline@nhs.net](mailto:nyccg.rxline@nhs.net) (North Yorkshire)