

Date:	February 1, 2021
To:	Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, Pharmacists
From:	NH Palliative Care Consultation Team
Re:	Updated Adult Palliative Care Order Sets

The following regional order sets and their associated MARs have been updated and are available from Document Source:

[10-111-5193 Adult Palliative Care Crisis Event Orders for Hospital Inpatients](#)
[10-112-5025 Adult Palliative Care Crisis Event Medication Administration Record](#)

[10-111-5204 Adult Palliative Care Orders for Hospital Inpatients](#)
[10-111-5201-002 Adult Bowel Care Orders- Patient Taking Daily Opioid](#)
[10-112-5024 Adult Palliative Care Medication Administration Record](#)

Highlights of some of the changes you will see with the updated adult order sets:

With the [Adult Palliative Care Orders for Hospital Inpatients](#) order set:

- there is no longer a palliative care bowel protocol built in. Instead, the order set references another regional order set that can be used in the adult palliative patient population, [Adult Bowel Care Orders: Patient Taking Daily Opioid](#). The two order sets will be printed as a package when the [Adult Palliative Care Orders for Hospital Inpatients](#) order sets are requested from Document Source.
- orders for nausea/vomiting are now prescribed **as needed**;
- for restlessness/agitation there is still the order to use “as needed” haloperidol or methotrimeprazine and this can be dose stacked, but the scheduled dosing to start after a dose stacking has been removed.

With the [Adult Palliative Care Crisis Event Orders for Hospital Inpatients](#) order set:

- the comment for an assessment within 90 minutes of a crisis symptom being identified and treated was removed and instead staff are directed to contact the MRP and consider a Palliative Care Consultation when crisis orders are initiated;
- midazolam in dyspnea has been separated out from the opioids used in severe pain and shortness of breath to be clear that it is indicated to use **in addition** to an opioid for severe dyspnea;
- severe bleed has been defined to help clarify when treatment is indicated.

These are only some of the main changes seen with the order sets. For a complete review of the updated order sets please attend one of the webinar review sessions that will be offered at the beginning of February. A recorded session of this review will also be made available.

If you have any questions or would like further clarification, contact the Northern Health Palliative Care Consultation Team at Palliative.Care.Consult.Team@northernhealth.ca.