

## Writing TTOs for Dying Patients

DO NOT REQUEST 28 DAYS SUPPLY. 7 days supply of palliative care drugs is usually sufficient for patients who are dying.

For Controlled Drugs the legal requirements are:

- 1) QUANTITY in words and figures. This must specify the number of dosage units of a particular strength (not a total quantity).
- 2) YOUR SIGNATURE on the TTO (an electronic signature is not acceptable).

Without this information pharmacy cannot dispense the prescription and the patients discharge may be delayed.

### Sub cutaneous controlled drug prescriptions (opioids and midazolam)

QUANTITY must be written as number of ampoules of a particular strength (not as a total quantity).

#### Example

Medication	Dose	Frequency	Route	Other directions	Advice to continue	Days supply
Morphine	50mg	Over 24 hours via syringe driver	SC	Please supply 40 (forty) ampoules of 10mg	Yes	7

A separate prescription (including quantity) will be needed for any PRN drugs. In general, enough ampoules to give 10 doses should be sufficient.

#### Example

Medication	Dose	Frequency	Route	Other directions	Advice to continue	Days supply
Morphine	5-10mg	Hourly as needed for breakthrough pain	SC	Please supply 10 (ten) ampoules of 5mg	Yes	7

The following strengths and pack sizes of subcutaneous drugs are available:

Drug	Strength	Pack Size
Morphine	10mg/ml	10
	30mg/ml	10
Oxycodone	10mg/ml	5
	20mg/2ml	5
	50mg/ml	5
Fentanyl	100micrograms/2ml	10
Alfentanil	5mh/ml	10
Diamorphine (higher strengths available)	5mg	5
	10mg	5
	30mg	5
Midazolam	10mg/2ml	10
Levomepromazine	25mg/ml	10
Metoclopramide	10mg/2ml	10
Haloperidol	5mg/ml	10
Glycopyrronium	200micrograms/ml	10

## Writing TTOs for Palliative Patients who are not Actively Dying

Patients who are not actively dying will need 28 days supply of all regular drugs including CDs. 7 days supply of PRN meds is usually sufficient.

As above, the legal requirements for CDs are:

- 1) QUANTITY in words and figures. This must specify the number of dosage units (not a total quantity).
- 2) YOUR SIGNATURE on the TTO (an electronic signature is not acceptable)

### Oral opioid prescriptions (including Tramadol which is a Schedule 3 Controlled Drug)

QUANTITY must be written as number of dosage units (e.g. tabs/caps) of a particular strength

#### Example

Medication	Dose	Frequency	Route	Any other directions	Advice to continue	Days supply
Oxycodone MR	20mg	BD	PO	Please supply 56 (fifty six) tablets of 20mg	Yes	28

Liquids are usually supplied in whole bottles

#### Example

Medication	Dose	Frequency	Route	Any other directions	Advice to continue	Days supply
Oxycodone IR liquid 5mg/5mg	10mg	Hourly	PO	As needed for breakthrough pain. Please supply two hundred and fifty mls (250mls)	Yes	7

The following strengths and pack sizes of oral opiates are available:

Drug	Strength	Pack size
<b>Modified release morphine</b>		
Zomorph capsules	5mg (MST) 10mg 30mg 60mg 100mg 200mg	60
<b>Modified release oxycodone</b>		
Longtec	5mg 10mg 15mg 20mg 30mg 40mg 60mg 80mg 120mg	56

Drug	Strength	Pack size
<b>Immediate release morphine</b>		
Sevredol tablets	10mg 20mg 50mg	56
Oramorph liquid (not a CD)	10mg/5ml	100ml
Oramorph concentrate	20mg/ml	120ml
<b>Immediate release oxycodone</b>		
Shortec	5mg 10mg 20mg	56
Oxynorm liquid	5mg/5ml	250ml
Oxynorm concentrate	20mg/ml	120ml

For all other preparations please consult the BNF for strengths and pack sizes available.