This guide aims to provide some practical advice on issuing anticipatory medicines on the clinical system and to be used in conjunction with Leeds Palliative Care Network guidance.

Reminder during COVID-19 pandemic – “shielded” patients or household members of someone with COVID-19 should not collect the medication, they should send a representative or contact 0113 378 1877 to access a volunteer to support them. There may also be delays with some community pharmacies delivering medication in their normal way – it is important to liaise with individual pharmacies to find out what they can do with regards to supply and delivery.

Contents:

Page 2 Anticipatory prescribing – suggested prescription wording and doses
- This has been provided to help ensure prescriptions are written in the correct format so they can legally be dispensed
- For controlled drugs this needs to include the drug name, form strength, quantity in words and figures and a dose which must include a number

Page 3 Ensuring palliative care prescriptions are sent electronically on SystmOne
- Sending prescriptions electronically is a safe and rapid way of getting prescriptions to the pharmacy without having to collect and transport a physical prescription
- It also means when pharmacies do not have stock the prescriptions can be returned to the spine and quickly downloaded by other pharmacies without a need to transfer a physical prescription

One-off EPS nominations – to send items to a pharmacy other than the patient’s usual pharmacy
- It is a common scenario that anticipatory medicines may need to be obtained from a pharmacy which is not the patient’s usual nominated pharmacy (e.g. outside usual opening hours, when a dedicated palliative care pharmacy is being used etc) this guidance sets out how to set a one-off nomination

Page 4 How to send Water for injection as plastic vials electronically in SystmOne
- Water for injections will not go via EPS if prescribed generically therefore it is important to prescribe by brand as per instructions provided

Page 5 Issuing multiple medications, as separate items, on separate prescriptions, to the same pharmacy, via EPS on SystmOne
- To support obtaining stock when all items may not be in stock all at one pharmacy it is extremely beneficial to issue as separate prescriptions
- This enables the pharmacy to return an individual item to the spine for dispensing at another pharmacy whilst still being able to dispense the items they do have in stock
Anticipatory prescribing - sample prescription doses

See Leeds Palliative Care Network guidance for alternative options if non-injectable medication required e.g. if no syringe driver is available

To help with prompt supply, ideally palliative care medications should be prescribed on separate prescriptions i.e. one drug per prescription – instructions for how to do this on SystmOne are on the final page of this document

Suggested wording and doses for prescriptions:
(NOTE – these doses of opioids are for opioid naïve patients)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levomepromazine 25mg/ml inj.</th>
<th>Supply 5 x 1ml ampoules. 6.25mg sub cut as required for sickness. Do not repeat within 30 mins. Max 4 doses in 24 hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hyoscine butylbromide 20mg/ml inj.</td>
<td>Supply 5 x 1ml ampoules. 20mg sub cut as required for secretions Do not repeat within 30 mins. Max 4 doses in 24 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midazolam 10mg/2ml inj.</td>
<td>Supply 5 (five) x 2ml ampoules. 2.5-5mg sub cut as required for agitation. Do not repeat within 30 mins. Max 4 doses in 24 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td>Lorazepam 1mg Tablets Supply 10 tablets 0.5mg SL/buccal if needed for anxiety/breathlessness. Leave at least an hour between doses. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours Please supply Genus/PVL/TEVA brands known to dissolve better sublingually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morphine sulfate 10mg/ml solution for inj.</td>
<td>Supply 5 (five) x 1ml ampoules 2.5-5mg sub cut as required for pain or breathlessness. Leave at least 30minutes between doses. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td>Diamorphine 5mg powder for solution for inj. Supply 5 (five) ampoules. 2.5-5mg sub cut as required for pain or breathlessness. Leave at least 30minutes between doses. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td>Oxycodone 10mg/ml solution for inj. Supply 5(five) x 1ml ampoules. 1-2mg sub cut as required for pain or breathlessness. Leave at least 30minutes between doses. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water for injection [B Braun] 100ml (10x10ml ampoules)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anticipatory medicines practical prescribing guide

Ensuring palliative care prescriptions are sent electronically on SystmOne

Many palliative care injections are “Personally Administered” drugs and will therefore print on an FP10. If you wish to send these electronically, then untick the Personally Administered tick (shown on next page) when prescribing these drugs or adding to repeat.

There is also now a function to add palliative care injections and any other injections to a list of medicines you don’t want to print on FP10 by default, in Organisation Preferences. Adding medicines to this list will mean that the Personally Administered box is unticked by default and these meds will be sent via EPS:

One-off EPS nominations – to send items to a pharmacy other than the patient’s usual pharmacy

It is possible to generate a “non-nominated” token for patients that have a nomination recorded by unticking the “Nominate dispenser” box in the EPS options section of the Print Issues screen. This does not permanently remove the nomination and the token barcode number can be given to any community pharmacy to download the prescription from the Spine.

It is now also possible to give a patient a one-off nomination to send a script to a specific pharmacy that isn’t the patient’s nominated pharmacy, which can be set at the point of issuing a prescription:
Anticipatory medicines practical prescribing guide

How to send Water for injection as plastic ampoules electronically in SystmOne
If water for injection is not listed on the Personally Administered Organisation Preference as above

1. Start a new Repeat Template or Acute medication
2. Type "Water for injection" in drug selection box
3. Do not choose water for injections injection
4. Go to Branded generics section and choose and choose B Braun product

4. Highlight the ampoule size you wish to prescribe via ETP2 – 10ml is commonly chosen (5ml and 20ml are alternatives depending on planned use and what drugs the water may be mixed with)

5. Add the issue duration and the number of millilitres you want to prescribe - 100 millilitres automatically converts to 10 ampoules
6. Remove the tick from the Pers. Admin box (under demographic box in top right hand of creating repeat template box) to leave the box blank

7. If you do not remove the tick – the item remains none ETP, and if a repeat medication remains like this on the repeat list and cannot be sent via EPS

H Whiteside, York Road PCN pharmacist, April 2020
Anticipatory medicines practical prescribing guide

**Issuing multiple medications, as separate items, on separate prescriptions, to the same pharmacy, via EPS on SystmOne**

1. Add *Acute* medication
2. Select the medication you wish to prescribe
3. Add a one off prescription note to say this is prescription x of x
4. Before adding any other medications, click *Print un-printed issues* button:

5. Sign the prescription electronically
6. Repeat the process for each individual medication.

_H Black, Colton Mill Practice pharmacist, April 2020_