

*palliPHARM*  
PO BOX 2274  
Runcorn, QLD, 4113  
P: 07 3338 9080  
F: 1300 008 227  
E: pallipharm@health.qld.gov.au

Dear Colleague,

**Re: *palliPHARM* for residential and aged care communities**

Queensland Health and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia would like to thank you for considering involvement with the *palliPHARM* initiative which has now been incorporated as part of PallConsult.

If you choose to be involved in *palliPHARM*, your pharmacy name and address will be published on a list of community pharmacies committed to stocking appropriate end-of-life medicines. The list will appear on public-facing directories and healthcare provider portals such as QFinder 2.0, HealthDirect, Primary Health Network websites and HealthPathways to enable the public, General Practitioners and other healthcare professionals to locate community pharmacies who support palliative care.

Attached, you will find an outline of the *palliPHARM* initiative and a non-legally binding letter of intent to stock core palliative care medicines in your pharmacy. If you are prepared to make this commitment, please complete, sign and return the letter to *palliPHARM* via post, facsimile or email (details listed above) at your earliest convenience. Alternatively, an online version of the letter of intent can be completed by copying the link into your web browser or scanning the QR code (both available on the last page of the letter).

Please do not hesitate to contact the *palliPHARM* team if you have any further questions.

We look forward to your participation in this exciting initiative.

Kind regards,

The PallConsult team

# Letter of Intent to stock Core Palliative Care Medicines

## Background

Most people say that, if they had a terminal illness, they would prefer to be cared for at home and to die there if possible.<sup>1</sup> The Queensland Health funded initiatives, ‘**palliPHARM for residential and aged care communities**’ and ‘**PallConsult**’ supports that preference. Both initiatives have a primary focus on end-of-life care, using enhanced planning and education to ensure timely access to appropriate end-of-life medicines. These mechanisms enable palliative patients to be cared for in their homes for as long as possible.

Queensland Health is collaborating with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), the peak national organisation for pharmacists working in all sectors, to invite all Queensland community pharmacies to participate in this initiative. A key objective of *palliPHARM* is to ensure community-based palliative patients have timely access to palliative care medicines to relieve suffering associated with emergent end-of-life symptoms.

Queensland Health and PSA recommend community pharmacies in Queensland commit to holding stock of at least one medicine from each of the five medicine categories included in the ‘Core Palliative Care Medicines List for Queensland Community Patients’ (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Core Palliative Care Medicines List for Queensland Community Patients

Medicine Category	Medicines		Minimum Quantity to stock	Indication/(s) for use in terminal phase patients
	First Line	Second Line		
<b>Analgesic (High potency opioid)</b>	Morphine (sulfate or hydrochloride) 10mg/mL and/or 30mg/mL Injection	Fentanyl citrate 100µg/2mL Injection  Hydromorphone 2mg/mL Injection	5 ampoules	Dyspnoea Pain
<b>Anticholinergic</b>	Hyoscine butylbromide 20mg/mL Injection	-	5 ampoules	Respiratory tract secretions
<b>Antiemetic</b>	Metoclopramide 10mg/2mL Injection	Haloperidol 5mg/mL Injection	10 ampoules	Nausea, vomiting
<b>Antipsychotic</b>	Haloperidol 5mg/mL Injection	-	10 ampoules	Agitation Nausea, vomiting Refractory distress
<b>Anxiolytic</b>	Clonazepam 1mg/mL Injection	Midazolam 5mg/mL Injection	5 or 10 ampoules	Agitation Dyspnoea Refractory distress Seizures
	Clonazepam 2.5mg/mL (0.1mg/drop) Oral Liquid		10mL bottle	

<sup>1</sup> Palliative Care Australia. *Supporting palliative care patients who choose to die at home*. Available from: <https://palliativecare.org.au/palliative-matters/supporting-palliative-care-patients-who-choose-to-die-at-home> [Accessed 6 November 2020]

The medicines listed can be used to manage symptoms commonly experienced during the terminal phase of a patient's life. The stocking of medicines from the list, together with improve collaboration between healthcare providers, can facilitate timely prescription, dispensing and, ultimately, administration of medicines for end-of-life symptom management.

The 'Core Palliative Care Medicines List for Queensland Community Patients' does not restrict which medicines can be prescribed for individual palliative patients, but is one approach which will allow community pharmacies to anticipate medicines most likely to be prescribed, and allow prescribers to anticipate medicines most likely to be readily available for rapid dispensing in Queensland pharmacies and residential aged care facilities (RACFs).

### Objectives of the *palliPHARM* initiative include:

1. Synthesising a Queensland guidance document, based upon consensus best-practice care, that outlines processes to ensure community-based palliative patients receive end-of-life medicines in a timely fashion.
2. Providing education to healthcare professionals (general practitioners [GPs], pharmacists and nurses) to promote awareness of the need for anticipatory prescribing and dispensing of palliative care medicines, and guidance document processes
3. Developing an exemplar organisational policy and procedures document to encourage all Queensland RACFs to establish, and appropriately stock, palliative care medicine imprest systems
4. Increasing the number of community pharmacies holding stock of commonly used palliative care medicines
5. Increasing the number of RACFs with fit-for-purpose palliative care medicine imprest systems

### *palliPHARM* Responsibilities

*palliPHARM* acknowledges that they are responsible for:

- Disseminating the [Anticipatory medicines: Statewide Guideline for Queensland](#) once finalised to all pharmacists throughout Queensland
- Supporting Queensland pharmacists and pharmacy staff in the provision of palliative care by developing flexible educational resources (CPD-accredited) on anticipatory prescribing and palliative care; and providing access to useful links on a website hosted by the PSA
- Creating sample resources and templates for optional use by community pharmacies that indicate their support for palliative care in the community
- Developing supporting documentation for community pharmacies to engage with RACFs in the safe and effective management of palliative care imprest systems
- Communicating to the public, GPs and other healthcare providers via mechanisms such as Primary Health Networks (PHNs), QFinder 2.0 and other public-facing websites about community pharmacies that commit to holding palliative care medicines
- Providing pharmacists with a 24/7 clinical advice hotline to speak directly to a Specialist

Palliative Care Consultant

Phone: 1300 PALLDR (1300 725 537).

## Community Pharmacy Responsibilities

To enable the *palliPHARM* initiative to achieve its intended outcomes, community pharmacies will be expected to:

- Engage staff in relevant training including *palliPHARM* workshops or other educational resources hosted on the PSA microsite to improve understanding of palliative care and anticipatory medicines
- Discuss with local prescribers including GPs, nurse practitioners and palliative care networks within the community pharmacy's region, which medicines from the Core Palliative Care Medicines List for Queensland Community Patients should be stocked.
- Commit to stocking at least one medicine from each of the five medicine categories included in the Core Palliative Care Medicines List for Queensland Community Patients.
- Conduct regular stock audits of core palliative care medicines including expiry date checks
- Maintain minimum stock levels of Core Palliative Care Medicines at all times
- Approve having the pharmacy's contact details and hours of operation listed on the local PHN Palliative Care Pathway\* and other public-facing websites

*NB: \*Publication of this information is subject to availability of PHN Palliative Care Pathways within the pharmacy's local PHN*

## Legal Effect

- This letter of intent is not a legally-binding document.

## Funding and Financial Risk

- Pharmacies will need to commit to stocking the Core Palliative Care Medicines List for Queensland Community Patients. Financial risk to pharmacies is likely to be mitigated through promotion of consistent prescribing of medicines on the core list and supporting more Queenslanders to be cared for and die at home.

## Community Pharmacy details

Primary Contact Name and Position	
Pharmacy Name	
Pharmacy Street Address	
Pharmacy Suburb, State, Postcode	
Pharmacy Contact Number	
Email Address	
Hours of Operation	

By signing this letter of intent, the parties agree to the terms contained within the letter.

### **palliPHARM**

### **Community Pharmacy**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of authorised representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position of authorised representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Once complete, please return via post, facsimile or email to:**

*Post:* palliPHARM

PO BOX 2274

Runcorn, QLD, 4113

*Facsimile:* 1300 008 227

*Email:* [pallipharm@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:pallipharm@health.qld.gov.au)

**OR**

**Complete the Letter of Intent online by copying the link below into your web browser or scanning the QR code**



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7K5ZD9C>