

GP Factsheet

Supporting end-of-life care in South Western Sydney

As a GP practising in South Western Sydney, you have a vital role in supporting your patients with palliative care needs. This includes the proactive prescribing (anticipatory prescribing) of medicines needed to manage the expected symptoms associated with dying.

To further support timely access to palliative care medicines in the community, the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission recommends community pharmacies in NSW stock the five injectable medicines on the [Core Palliative Care Medicines List for NSW Community Pharmacy](#).

These are listed below -

Core Medicine	Indication(s) for use in the last days of life	Listed on PBS for palliative care	Listed on PBS Prescriber Bag*
Clonazepam 1mg/mL Injection	Anxiety Terminal restlessness	Yes 1 pack of 5 ampoules 1 repeat	No
Haloperidol 5mg/mL Injection	Terminal restlessness Nausea	Yes 1 pack of 10 ampoules 2 repeats	Yes 1 pack of 10 ampoules
Hyoscine butylbromide 20mg/mL Injection	Noisy breathing	Yes (Streamlined Authority 6207) 6 packs of 5 ampoules 3 repeats	Yes 1 pack of 5 ampoules
Metoclopramide 10mg/2mL Injection	Nausea	Yes (Streamlined Authority 6084) 4 packs of 10 ampoules 2 repeats	Yes 1 pack of 10 ampoules
Morphine 10mg/mL Injection	Pain Dyspnoea	Yes (Streamlined Authority 11697) 2 packs of 5 ampoules 1 repeat	Yes 1 pack of 5 ampoules

*Current as of March 2024

This list does not restrict which medicines can be prescribed for individual patients, but is one approach which will allow community pharmacies to anticipate the medicines most likely to be prescribed, and allow prescribers to anticipate the medicines most likely to be readily available in NSW community pharmacies.

In 2023-2024, South Western Sydney Primary Health Network (SWSPHN) supported the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to seek a non-legally binding commitment from community pharmacies across South Western Sydney to hold a minimum of one full box of each of the abovementioned injectable medicines.

Scan the QR code to access an interactive map of the pharmacies across South Western Sydney that have made this commitment. This will enable you to identify the pharmacy nearest you and/or your patient which is likely to be able to supply these medicines, once prescribed, at short notice.

For further information on palliative care management and treatment options, plus locally available clinical services refer to HealthPathways. Email HealthPathways@swsphn.com.au to request support if needed.

