

"JUST IN CASE": PALLIATIVE SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT KIT

Palliative Care & End of Life Services
Clinical Practice Bulletin



"JUST IN CASE" KIT

What is the "Just in Case" Symptom Management Kit?

The kit is a contingency parenteral medication kit in Home Health for individuals with a palliative performance score (PPS) of 40% or less. It is individualized to each person's needs and implemented for symptom management. The kit contains 72 hours of parenteral medications to immediately alleviate symptom distress while following up with a request for a regular prescription for continued use at home. This avoids unnecessary transfer or admission to the hospital for symptom management.

Initiating the Symptom Management Kit

- Screening
 - Individuals with a PPS of 40% or less, or are rapidly declining are considered eligible for a symptom management kit.
 - After the Home Health nursing team evaluates the list of criteria to determine client eligibility, they will ask five open-ended questions regarding storage of the kits and potential risk of misuse to the individual and family.
- Ordering
 - Physician/NP completes the Just in Case prescription form (#821469).
- Teaching to person/family includes:
 - Administration
 - Purposes
 - Precautions
 - Self-storage
 - Need for the kit to be used only by nurse, physician, nurse practitioner or paramedic, unless instructed otherwise
 - How to use the in-home medication record
 - Review of medications for symptom management

Activation of the Symptom Management Kit

Activation of the kit is by a Home Health Nurse, Physician, NP or Paramedic. The Nurse will be in contact before and upon activation to provide caregiver education. *Nurses refer to the Pre Drawing Medications for Palliative Care: Home Health Guideline

PRACTICE TIPS



WHY?

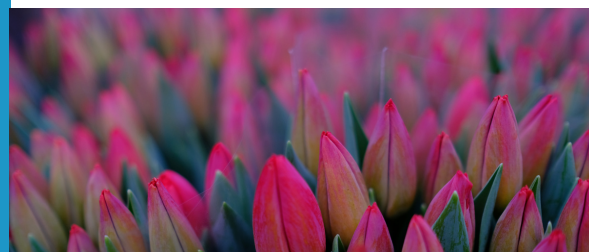
- *Support Home Health clients at home when it is their Goal of Care, and avoid hospital visits.*
- *Decrease barriers and delays in timely symptom management.*
- *Provide backup or contingency medication plan (not meant to replace regular prescriptions).*
- *Align parenteral medication options with the BC Palliative Symptom Management Guidelines.*
- *Support best practice in home-based Palliative Care.*

Who is involved?

- Home Health Nurse, Physician, Nurse Practitioner (NP), Pharmacist, Paramedic, individual and family.
 - Access the Palliative Just in Case (JIC) Symptom Management Kits (SMK) Standardized Process to find the description of your role and others.

Community Pharmacist role:

- Fill the medications prescribed in the "Just in Case" kit
- Provide Palliative "Just in Case" Medication Kit Information to individual and caregivers



RESOURCES

1. Palliative Just in Case Symptom Management Kits Standardized Process
2. Palliative Just in Case Symptom Management Kit Supplies List
3. Just-in-Case Medication Log