

# Pharmacology Trends in Hospice & Palliative Care

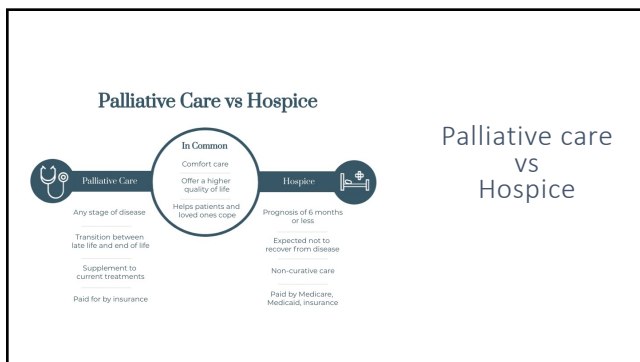
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Hospice of the Chesapeake

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## Objectives

- Identify the difference between hospice and palliative care
- Identify the most common symptoms associated with serious or terminal illness
- Discuss pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for the management of common symptoms associated with serious or terminal illness
- Discuss methods for medication administration in the Hospice setting

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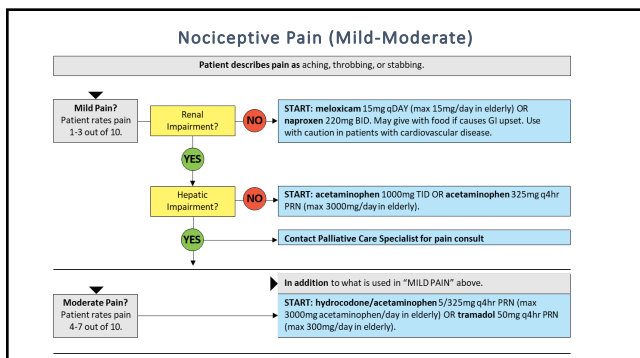


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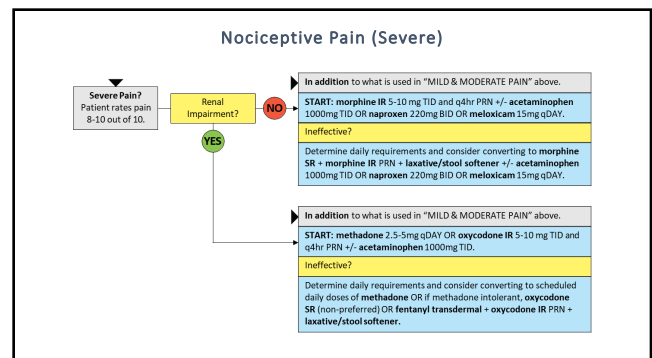
### Common symptoms associated with serious or terminal illness

- PAIN
- NAUSEA/VOMITING
- CONSTIPATION
- DYSPNEA
- ANXIETY

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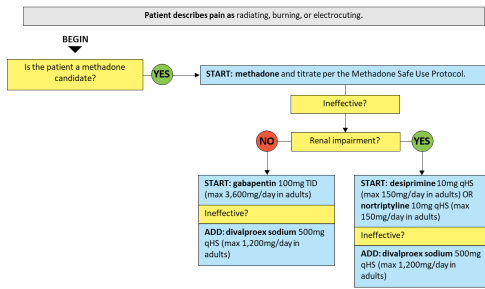


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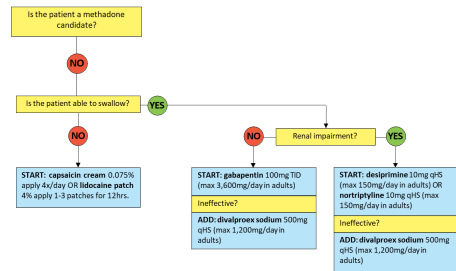
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## Neuropathic Pain



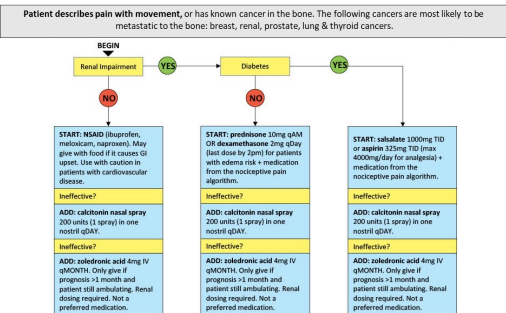
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## Neuropathic Pain (cont'd)



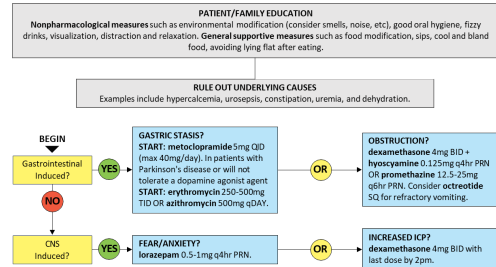
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## Bone Pain



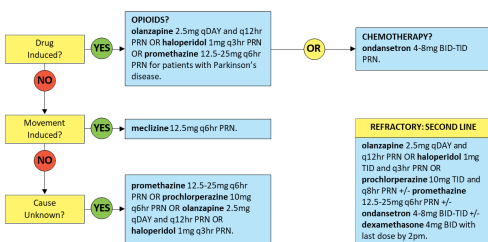
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## Nausea/Vomiting



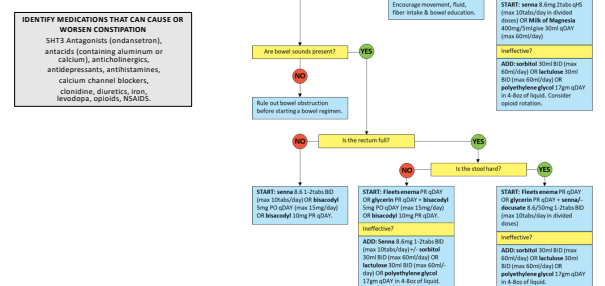
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## Nausea/Vomiting (Cont'd)

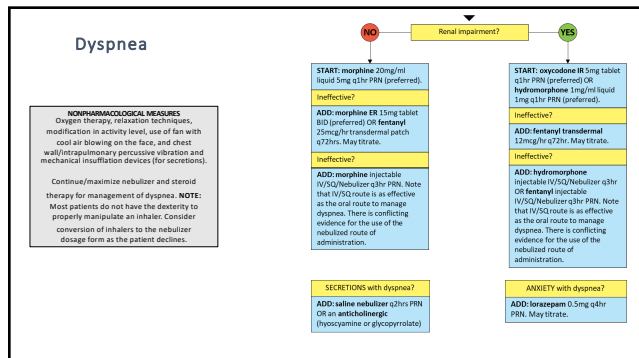


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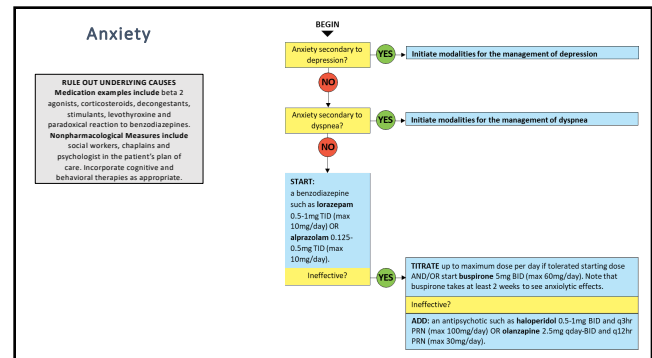
## Constipation



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### Common routes for medication administration in hospice

- Orally
- Subcutaneously
- Intravenously
- Rectally



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### Orally

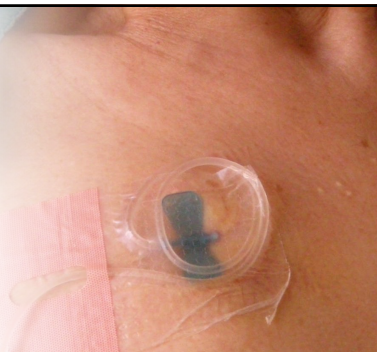
- Most common
- Convenient
- No restrictions



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### Subcutaneously


- Minimal discomfort on initiation
- Can be used in the home setting
- More sites for placement
- Can be used with PCAs
- Limited infusion rate (1-2 ml/min or 1.5-3 L/day)
- Challenging for patients with significant peripheral edema



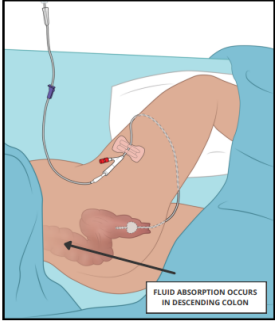
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### Intravenously

- Discomfort on initiation
- Restrictive
- May not be ideal for patients with agitation/delirium or pediatric patients
- Ideal for PCAs
- Allows for rapid symptom control



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### Rectally

- Minimal discomfort
- Retention of large volumes
- Increased absorption
- Ideal in the setting of nausea and vomiting
- Hydration can be administered rectally
- Easy to manage at home


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Think Beyond the Needle.  
The Macy Catheter is faster, safer and more cost effective.

Comparing Alternate Routes of Delivery

Medication Versatility*	Rectal	SQ	IV	SL	Transdermal	Intra-neural
Opioids	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
NSAIDs	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Benzodiazepines	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Antiemetics	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Anticonvulsants	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Sedatives	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Antidepressants	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Neuroleptics	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Anticholinergics	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Steroids	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited
Antibiotics	✓	✓	✓	✓	Limited	Limited

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### Questions

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