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| Comfort Kit (For Hospice Patients) | **Last Revision:** | January 2015 |
| **Last Reviewed:** | January 2015 |
| **Applies to the following THA Group of Companies:** | Island Hospice |
| **Included in the following THA Manuals:** | Clinical Policy and Procedure Manual  Medication Management |

#### POLICY

Hospice patients are pro-actively managed for pain and other deleterious symptoms effectively and expeditiously during times of physical crisis through the use of the Hospice Patient Comfort Kit.

**PURPOSE**

To outline the process and procedure for ensuring prompt, effective management of Hospice patients in crisis related to pain or other symptoms by utilizing the Comfort Kit that is already placed in the patient’s home and is available for use as needed.

# PROCEDURE

1. Hospice care assumes a proactive approach to addressing pain/symptom management crises by having medications readily available with which to intervene for patient needs.

1. Comfort Kit medicines are used to adequately control pain and/or other symptoms as needed.
2. If deemed appropriate, the nurse obtains a physician order to place the Comfort Kit in the patient’s home for use during crisis pain/symptom episodes and orders the Comfort Kit from the contracted Pharmacy Service to be delivered to the home. The case manager completes necessary paperwork including all patient identification information, known allergies and past medical history.
3. The Comfort Kit may include the following medications: Lorazepam, Hyoscyamine, Morphine Sulfate IR, Prochlorperazine, Furosemide, Haloperidol, Acetaminophen, ABHR suppository, or other medications based on physician’s orders.
4. Family/Caregivers are instructed to NOT open the Kit unless directed to do so by the Hospice nurse. The nurse documents placement of the Kit.
5. The nurse instructs the patient/caregiver that the Comfort Kit medications are for use only for management and intervention of pain/symptom crisis at times when obtaining a specific medication/prescription may be delayed.
6. The nurse also instructs the patient/caregiver on administration, dosage, expected effects, and possible side effects of any medication used and how to determine its effectiveness in controlling the pain/symptoms. Use of the kit and all other instruction provided to the patient/caregiver is documented in the nurse’s note of the medical record.
7. The case manager ensures the attending physician is sent a copy of the Kit contents and the protocol for use along with the POC.
8. When medication from the Comfort Kit is used, the nurse conducts a follow up assessment to determine the effectiveness of medication within 2 hours of its initial use and documents same in the medical record.
9. Comfort Kit Medications are documented as such in the medication profile.
10. Remaining contents of the Comfort Kit are destroyed per company policy at the time of patient’s death.