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MEMO

To	LHIN Staff, Service Provider Organizations, Retirement Homes, Primary Care Providers, Long-Term Care Homes, Medical Pharmacies
From	Laurie French, Director, Home and Community Care
Date	April 16, 2020
Subject	NEW COVID-19 Kit for symptom management at end-of-life available April 17, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and urgency of symptom management needs for patients with COVID-19 at end-of-life (EOL), the South East LHIN is making a new COVID-19 kit available.

These COVID-19 kits are similar to the Symptom Response Kit (SRK), but have been developed to specifically address symptom management related to COVID-19 for patients at EOL, outside of acute care hospitals and are available for urgent (<5 hours) or same day (up to 9 pm) delivery.

The new form includes specific orders recommended for management of COVID-19 symptoms using the following medications:

- Hydromorphone
- Atropine Sulfate
- Midazolam (or methotrimeprazine, if Midazolam unavailable)

In addition to routine medical supplies, this kit will also include a Death Certificate for Primary Care use.

Criteria for ordering COVID-19 Kit

The COVID-19 kit is not intended to replace the SRK process, but rather address the urgency for EOL support for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive patients during the pandemic outside of the acute care setting. If the patient already has an SRK in the home, this kit is not needed. Please see the attached *COVID-19 Prescription/Order Form* for specific symptom management, criteria, contents, and instructions for ordering for South East LHIN Home and Community Care patients.

SRK process change – Reduced quantity dispensed

In an effort to conserve medications during the pandemic, we will be adopting a temporary process when a routine SRK is ordered. SRKs are still to be considered for patients as per normal process, for anticipating symptoms and when the patient's PPS is $\leq 50\%$.

Medical pharmacies will process the routine *SRK prescription/order form* but will be sending less quantities than the form currently requests; for example reducing from 10 vials to 5 vials. They will fax a **Reduced Quantity Dispensed** form to the prescriber and send it along with the prescription copy for the nursing agency to review. Please ensure the prescriber's fax number is included with the SRK for timely communication. The form will also include directions for nurses on how to order the refills for next-day delivery, as needed.

Should you have any questions surrounding this new COVID-19 Kit or guidelines document the Queen's Palliative Medicine team is an expert resource contact (their contact information is provided on each form).

Palliative symptom management for patients with COVID-19 at EOL outside of the ICU

Please also see the attached clinical guideline document for supporting COVID-19 patients at EOL, developed by the BC Centre for Palliative Care Guidelines, and adapted by the Division of Palliative Medicine, Queen's University and South East Regional Palliative Care Network.

South East LHIN Guide for Talking about Wishes and Goals with COVID-19

Lastly, please see the attached guide to help support critical conversations with your patients at EOL due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This resource was developed by Dr. Amy Tan and was adapted to reflect Ontario laws and further modified for use by the South East LHIN.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a sharp focus on Advance Care Planning (ACP). ACP is the process of identifying and confirming a patient's Substitute Decision-Maker, if the patient becomes too ill or mentally incapable of speaking for themselves in health care situations.

Yellow Folder

The process for supporting an expected death in the community is supported by the current Yellow Folder process. During the pandemic, planning for death conversations will be critical to have and to share. Please ensure nursing is in place and the Yellow Folder process is implemented, with special focus on the *Expected Death at Home Checklist* and carer support document *When Death Occurs at Home*.

Long-Term Care Homes

Medical Pharmacies can make these kits available to you for private purchase.

These documents are accessible at: <http://healthcareathome.ca/southeast/en/Partners/forms>.