

Information for healthcare professionals

Palliative Care Medicines Pharmacy Network

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (SA Branch) has been commissioned to manage a network of 30 regional and metropolitan community pharmacies to provide improved access to a core list of palliative care medicines, including after-hours in urgent situations.

The Palliative Care Medicines Pharmacy Network will support people with life-limiting illnesses to receive their treatment at home and avoid emergency department presentations to access medicines.

All community pharmacies can dispense palliative care medicines, including 24-7 pharmacies. The network complements existing community pharmacy palliative care medicines access and services. The network pharmacies also provide support, information and advice to people with life-limiting illnesses, their families and carers, and other health professionals.

Core palliative care medicines list

The network pharmacies will maintain a minimum stock of core palliative medicines, including providing after-hours access in urgent situations.

The medicines will be available on prescription. The initiative does not include prescriber bag medicines supply or imprest stock for residential health care facilities.

Core palliative care medicines list

- > Clonazepam injection 1mg/mL
- > Haloperidol injection 5mg/mL
- > Hyoscine butylbromide injection 20mg/mL
- > Metoclopramide injection 10mg/2mL
- > Midazolam injection 5mg/mL
- > Morphine injection 10mg/mL

Access to the Palliative Care Medicines Pharmacy Network

Many people will continue to access their medicines and support from their usual community pharmacy, however they can also contact or visit a network pharmacy or 24-7 pharmacy when needed.

Options for urgent after-hours medicines access

The network pharmacies are accessible during usual opening hours, however there may be occasions where palliative care medicine is needed urgently after-hours. Where practical, if the patient has a prescription, they should be directed to a 24-7 pharmacy.

In urgent situations when a 24-7 pharmacy is not suitable, you can contact a network pharmacist to request an after-hours call back to discuss the most clinically appropriate option for the patient. This service is only available for medicines on the core palliative care medicines list.



Urgent referrals can be made by any health care professional involved in the person's care, including:

- > general practitioners (including after-hours services)
- > palliative care specialists and nurses
- > SA Ambulance Service
- > pharmacists
- > healthdirect

In some instances, if a pharmacist is unable to accommodate the request, they will provide information regarding a suitable alternative supply option.

After-hours call back process

- > To contact a network pharmacist after-hours, visit findapharmacy.com.au/our-services/palliative-care-medicines-pharmacy-network-sa-initiative.
- > Confirm the preferred pharmacy with the patient, family member or carer.
- > Contact the pharmacist to request the after-hours supply and advise:
 - your contact details (name, profession and phone number)
 - reason for urgent supply
 - patient's details (name, date of birth, phone number and address)
 - contact details of person collecting the medicine (name and phone number)
 - prescription details (medicines and quantities required)
 - prescription arrangement (electronic, fax or patient/carer providing).
- > If the call back request is accepted, the pharmacist will confirm arrangements with you and the patient or their family member/carer to organise medication dispensing and collection.

Further information

For more information, including a list of participating pharmacies, visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/palliativecaremedicine. To contact the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, email Health.OfficeoftheChiefPharmacist@sa.gov.au.

For more information

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