



<p>Team Name: Regional Palliative Care Team</p> <p>Team Lead: Regional Director - Seniors & Palliative Care</p> <p>Approved by: Executive Director - West</p>	<p>Reference Number: CLI.5910.PL.007</p> <p>Program Area: Palliative Care</p> <p>Policy Section: General</p>
<p>Issue Date: June 28, 2016</p> <p>Review Date:</p> <p>Revision Date: January 25, 2017</p>	<p>Subject: Palliative Care Standard Orders Policy</p>

POLICY SUBJECT:

Palliative Care Standard Orders Policy

PURPOSE:

The Palliative Care Standard Order Form CLI.5910.PL.007.FORM.01 have been developed to:

- Provide guidance to physicians, Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) prescribing medications to manage common and expected end-of-life symptoms;
- Promote evidence-based decision making;
- Establish a common approach to end of life pain and symptom management.

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE:

Executive Limitation (EL-2) Treatment of Clients

POLICY:

1. The Palliative Care Standard Orders Form CLI.5910.PL.007.FORM.01 are not intended to replace sound clinical judgment and professional standards.
2. The Palliative Care Standard Orders Form CLI.5910.PL.007.FORM.01 are initiated in the care of any patient in a hospital or personal care home (PCH) deemed to be requiring palliative care.
3. The medications, dosages, and general interventions provided in the Palliative Care Standard Orders Form CLI.5910.PL.007.FORM.01 are considered starting doses, as there may be uncertainty about how a medication may be tolerated. Doses may need to be rapidly escalated, as guided by effectiveness, particularly when using opioids to relieve pain and/or dyspnea.
4. Where symptoms are refractory to the Standard Orders CLI.5910.PL.007.FORM.01 or assistance is required in managing symptoms at end of life, physicians, NPs and PAs are encouraged to consult the Regional Palliative Care Team using the Palliative Care Referral Form CLI.5910.PL.001.FORM.01.

DEFINITIONS:

Patient Any individual that is the recipient of health care services. Patient may be used interchangeably with resident (in personal care homes).

PROCEDURE:

1. The Palliative Care Standard Orders Form CLI.5910.PL.007.FORM.01 are initiated for all patients requiring palliative care. This may be on admission to a hospital or a PCH, or during the course of care.
2. The physician, NP or PA activates those orders he/she has deemed clinically necessary by placing a check mark in the box next to the order.
3. All solid boxes are automatically activated by the physician's, NP's or PA's signature at the bottom of the form.
4. In order to deactivate a solid box, the physician, NP or PA must stroke the order through and initial it.
5. When the physician, NP or PA has completed the orders, he/she signs and prints their name at the bottom of the form.
6. Orders are processed as per the usual processes established in the hospital or PCH.
7. The orders are discontinued when:
 - A patient's care location changes (e.g. transfer from one facility to another);
 - The patient's condition changes to require medication changes or a different clinical approach; or
 - The patient dies
8. Discontinuation of single medications is documented on a Physician's Order Sheet and processed accordingly. In order to discontinue all the orders, the entire Palliative Care Standard Orders Form CLI.5910.PL.007.FORM.01 form must be stroked through at a diagonal, with the word "Discontinue" written across the line, and the discontinuation must be signed and dated by a physician, NP or PA.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

[CLI.5910.PL.001.FORM.01](#)

Palliative Care Referral Form

[CLI.5910.PL.007.FORM.01](#)

Palliative Care Standard Orders Form