

RESTLESSNESS & AGITATION
(In end of life patients unable to take oral medication)

Patient IS RESTLESS/AGITATED

Prescribe "when required" dose
Prescribe 2.5mg-5mg midazolam SC 2hourly "when required" (max 60mg/24hours).
Give a STAT dose to the patient.

If requiring two or more doses in 24 hours or unsettled
Prescribe 10mg midazolam via 24hour SC syringe pump.
Also give a STAT dose for the patient.

If symptoms persist
Add together the number of "when required" doses given and increase dose incrementally to a maximum dose of 60mg midazolam via 24hour SC syringe pump.
Also consider increasing stat dose incrementally up to a maximum of 10mg.
Consider prescribing levomepromazine 12.5mg-25mg SC 4hourly "when required" and add dose given in previous 24hours to a syringe pump if effective.

Patient is NOT RESTLESS/AGITATED

Prescribe "when required" dose
Prescribe 2.5mg-5mg midazolam SC 2hourly "when required" (max 60mg/24hours)

Note:
Be aware of the risk of paradoxical agitation with midazolam. This is more common at higher doses. Seek specialist advice.