

IAHPC List of Essential Medicines for Palliative Care (PC)

1. The Model list of essential medicines refers to this section in terms of a publication on Cancer pain relief, which may give the impression that palliative care refers only to cancer conditions. There are other life threatening illnesses that can be addressed by the drugs on the IAHPC list. Since the WHO definition of palliative care is also quite broad, we may also want to define what we mean by drugs for palliative care in the EML list. I would suggest therefore the **committee may wish to examine whether the section description may need to be reworded.**

2. Most of the drugs on the IAHPC list have same indication for PC covered by drugs already included in the EM model List. It would be useful before the drugs are now added to the EM model List, for the committee to have clarity

1. Whether these drugs have an added advantage to those on the list

or

2. Where there is only one option, it would be appropriate and necessary to add a second drug (on complimentary list?)

or

3. Whether an equivalent drug which is not on the EM list may have a formulation advantage.

These are:

	On IAHP list but not on EML	Indication	On EML for same indication	Comment
1	Bisacodyl tabs. And suppositories	Constipation	Senna tablets	Suppository formulation option offered. Suppositories are useful for dysphagia, uncontrolled vomiting or gastrointestinal obstruction
2	Citalopram tab. sol. and inj.) Mirtazapine tab. and inj	Depression	Amitriptyline tabs (class example)	
3	Diclofenac (tab.and inj) Tramadol (tabs. sol. and inj).	Pain mild to moderate	Codeine tablets Ibuprofen tablets Paracetamol (tab, sol. and supp)	Injection options offered
4	Fentanyl patch Oxycodone tablets	Pain moderate to severe	Methadone Morphine (tabs, inj. sol)	Patch option offered
5	Diphenhydramine (tab, inj.) Hyoscine butylbromide (sol, tab, inj) Octreotide (inj)	Nausea and vomiting	Dexamethasone (tab. Inj) Haloperidol(tabs, drops, inj) Metoclopramide (tabs, inj)	Domperidone (than diphenhydramine) may be a more specific drug for nausea and vomiting.
6	Gabapentin tablets	Neuropathic pain	Amitriptyline Carbamazepine Dexamethasone	
7	Levomepromazine (tabs and inj.) Midazolam (inj.)	Delirium and terminal restlessness	Haloperidol (tabs and inj.) (class example)	
8	Loperamide (tab) Octreotide (inj)	Diarrhoea	Codeine (tab) (<i>under review on efficacy</i>) ORS	Use of Loperamide in diarrhea is not to be encouraged. Oral rehydration solution is best option unless there is specific indication to stop diarrhea immediately.
9	Lorazepam (tabs and inj.) Midazolam (inj.)	Anxiety	Diazepam (tabs, inj. and supp.) (class example)	
10	Megestrol acetate (tab and sol.)	Anorexia	Dexamethasone (tabs and inj.) (assumed in cancer) Prednisolone (tabs)(<i>Alternate to dexamethasone.</i>)	Important to caution against use of dexamethasone for anorexia nervosa. Megestrol oral suspension has been used in AIDS patients. But more information is needed.
11	Mineral oil enema	No indication	?	
12	Trazodone (tabs and inj.) Zolpidem (tabs) (Under patent) Lorazepam (short term)	Insomnia	Diazepam (class example)	

3. Hyoscine butylbromide is the only drug in the list for visceral pain, for which there does not seem to be a specific drug for this condition in the EM list. Subject to information on its efficacy and safety, **the committee may want to consider addition to the list.**