

Hospice Medication Information

People at the end of life frequently have symptoms that can be relieved with medications. Your loved one may need some of these medications to keep them comfortable. Medications are usually given on an as-needed basis and can be scheduled if the doctor feels that is necessary.

Medications can be given by mouth if the patient is able to swallow, or under the tongue if they cannot swallow. Sometimes they will be given by injection. Some medications, especially for nausea or constipation, are given as suppositories. Side effects are possible and each patient is monitored closely to make sure they can tolerate medications. The following is a list of the most-prescribed medications and possible side effects. These medications are used often, but patients may need other medications as well.

Medications for Pain	Possible Side Effects
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	Nausea, headache, rash
Morphine (or other narcotic)	Drowsiness, confusion, hallucinations, constipation, nausea or vomiting

Medications for Shortness of Breath	Possible Side Effects
Oxygen (by mask or nasally)	Dry nose, congestion, nose bleeds
Lorazepam (Ativan)	Dizziness, drowsiness, confusion
Morphine (or other narcotic)	Drowsiness, confusion, hallucinations, constipation, nausea or vomiting

Medications for Anxiety, Hallucinations, Delirium, Terminal Restlessness	Possible Side Effects
Lorazepam (Ativan)	Dizziness, drowsiness, confusion
Haloperidol (Haldol)	Confusion, drowsiness, restlessness
Phenobarbital (Luminal)	Drowsiness, confusion

Medications for Nausea or Vomiting	Possible Side Effects
Prochlorperazine (Compazine)	Sedation, constipation, dry mouth, dizziness
Haloperidol (Haldol)	Confusion, drowsiness, restlessness

Call Empath Health with any questions (888) 855-2838:

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Hospice Medication Information (continued)

Medications for Oral Secretions	Possible Side Effects
Hyoscyamine (Levsin)	Dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth
Glycopyrrolate (Robinul)	Confusion, drowsiness, nasal congestion, dry mouth

Medications for Constipation	Possible Side Effects
Bisacodyl Suppository (Dulcolax)	Abdominal cramping, nausea, diarrhea
Senna (Senokot)	Abdominal cramping, diarrhea, nausea

NOTES:

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