



Every moment matters

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Hospice

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## Prescribing Algorithm

**Diamorphine for pain relief in the  
dying phase**

**Version 4**

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## 1. Scope

This is for use by professionals in all healthcare settings caring for patients in pain during the dying phase: **Using diamorphine SC.**

**Please note there is also a MORPHINE SULPHATE version of this algorithm**

## 2. Key points for consideration

- This algorithm should be considered in conjunction with other agreed guidance relating to the care of patients in the dying phase.
- If the patient is not in the dying phase then please consult the West Midlands Guidelines for symptom control in palliative care and follow the WHO analgesic ladder
- If the patient has a Fentanyl patch, please refer to 'Co8 Guidance on the Prescribing and use of Transdermal Fentanyl Patches in the Dying Phase'
- Patients should be assessed for reversible causes of pain and discomfort, for example full bladder / constipation.
- If patients are not settling / comfortable after the given time period then further help can be sought from West Midlands Palliative Care Physicians Guidance <http://wmpcg.co.uk/> alternatively contact the out of hour's doctor on call.

### 3. Prescribing Algorithm for Pain in the DYING PHASE using DIAMORPHINE SC injection

