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## Northern Health Palliative Care Symptom Management Kits (SMK)

### DO

- Ensure client is referred to community nursing and registered as palliative with [B.C. Palliative Care Benefits](#) and [NH Palliative Care Registration](#).
- Perform a home safety assessment prior to placing a SMK in the home.
- Check contents and complete a medication count of the SMK on the first visit after the SMK is brought to the home.
- Have physician/nurse practitioner sign the [Medication Prescription](#)\* to ensure **all** SMK medications are processed through PharmaCare and are available in the kit.
- Provide an *original* duplicate prescription to community pharmacy for **both** opioids available in the SMK within 3 days of filling out the [Medication Prescription](#)\*.
- Have physician/nurse practitioner write prescriptions for medications to treat ongoing symptoms beyond the 72 hour supply available in the kit.
- Inform community pharmacy if a patient will be delayed in picking up a SMK **or** the patient's situation changes and the SMK is no longer required.
- Inform community pharmacy of a patient's death and direct the family to return the SMK to the pharmacy.

### DO NOT

- Place additional prescribed medication for the patient in the SMK. It is locked and can not be accessed by the patient / caregiver.
- Alter the [Medication Prescription](#)\* to change the medication type / strength / quantity.
- Reveal the combination code for the SMK lock to the patient / family / caregivers.
- Place the SMK in the home unless patient meets criteria (end-of-life, anticipating escalating symptoms and/or a rapid decline in performance status).
- Access the SMK unless you have received training (complete the [LearningHub module](#) or education from a NH Palliative Care Nurse Consultant or the Pharmacist Lead).

\*link only available on OurNH

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