



Northern Health Palliative Care NH Symptom Management Kits (SMK)

HOT TIP
July
2019

DO

- Refer client to community nursing and register with [B.C. Palliative Care Benefits](#) and [NH Palliative Care](#) if patient meets palliative designation.
- Ensure patient has been approved for PharmaCare Palliative Care Benefits (Plan P) prior to dispensing SMK.
- Perform a home assessment prior to placing SMK in the home and complete a correct count of SMK medication on next nursing visit.
- Promptly report any stock discrepancies noted in kit to community pharmacy or home care nursing (depends on location of SMK when discrepancy is discovered) and the NH Palliative Care Pharmacist Lead.
- Fill in client identification on [SMK Medication Log](#) page 1 **and** page 2 (or attach a patient label).
- Have physician/nurse practitioner write prescription for medication to treat ongoing symptoms.
- Rotate stock in SMK to minimize expirations and wastage.
- Return prescription for stock used from SMK, including duplicate prescription if narcotic used, within **3 days** of being contacted by community pharmacy (for physician/nurse practitioner).

DO NOT

- Replace medication in the SMK with client's own medication.
- Reveal combination code for the SMK lock to the client / family / caregivers.
- Place SMK in the home unless client meets criteria (end of life, anticipating escalating symptoms and/or Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) of 10% to 30%)
- Access the SMK unless trained on using the service (completing the [LearningHub module](#) or education from a NH Palliative Care Consultant).
- Place a SMK in the home if there are any safety concerns within the client's home.

If you have any questions, please contact Suzy Stever, RPh Palliative Care Pharmacist Lead at 250-565-7318.