**Email to practice managers for attention of prescribers 07.05.20**

To aid effective access to EOL medicines during the Covid pandemic it would be helpful if the first time you are initiating anticipatory medications and completing the pink anticipatory drug chart 2 prescriptions are issued, the first for immediate dispensing and the second issued as paper prescriptions. Once anticipatory medicines are started the second prescription can then be dispensed reducing delays in accessing a further supply whilst preventing the issue of extra medicines initially when they may not be required.

* When prescribing anticipatory medicines for the first time please issue 2 prescriptions, the first to be obtained immediately and kept in the patients home/care home, the second to be held in reserve and only dispensed if and when the anticipatory medicines are started. This will reduce delays in obtaining the next prescription whilst reducing waste of medicines that may not be required.
* The palliative care team ask that the second prescription is provided as paper prescriptions. This is to avoid sending it electronically and dispensing straight away or setting a fixed future dispensing date.
* The initial electronic prescription should  be for 3amps of each of the four medications +water for injection. The delayed paper script will also be for 3 amps of each of the four meds (each on separate script) and be attached to pink chart for a  relative/carer/ nurse to collect from the designated GP surgery
* It is very helpful if each item is printed on a separate prescription. This is because the community nurses and carers sometimes need to use several pharmacies if one or more items are out of stock.
* All subsequent requests for anticipatory medications would be coordinated between usual GP and community nursing teams with regard to specific patient requirements and could be sent electronically

Thanks

Helen

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Please note: I don’t work on Mondays