

Comfort Care Order Set Provider FAQ

1. Which patients are appropriate for the Comfort Care Order Set?

Any patient who has opted for comfort-focused care with a DNR and DNI order. The order set allows nurses to titrate medications based on symptom assessment and monitoring, facilitating rapid symptom control and providing increased standardization in management approaches.

2. How do I access the Comfort Care Order Set in Penn Chart?

Type in "Comfort" into the "Orders" field and the order set will populate with options for ordering medications for various symptoms.

3. How do I choose the right orders for Pain, Dyspnea, and Anxiety?

- Pain (and Dyspnea):
 - o Order INITIAL MANAGEMENT if patient not currently on an opioid infusion.
 - o Order BOLUS & INFUSION if patient currently on an opioid infusion.
 - RN should adjust infusion to align with closest step on titration guideline.
- Anxiety (also second line for Dyspnea):
 - o Order INITIAL MANAGEMENT for PRN dosing if patient not currently on benzodiazepine.
 - o Order SCHEDULED DOSING if appropriate.
 - o If patient already on benzodiazepine infusion, order separately (not in order set).
 - Comfort Order Set Guideline in Penn Formulary will assist with titration.

4. Why does INITIAL MANAGEMENT start with opioid boluses instead of an infusion?

- Opioid boluses act quickly and provide the most rapid symptom relief. Boluses work within minutes and reach peak effect within 10-15 minutes, after which time another dose should be given if symptoms are not controlled.
- Opioid infusions slowly increase to steady-state over 8 hours, providing slower onset of symptom relief. Infusions should be continued in patients already established on one. They should be started in patients who are opioid tolerant at baseline or if a patient requires frequent boluses over a sustained period of time to maintain symptom control.

5. Why should I use the Comfort Care Order Set and not the medications from the Browse?

Medications frequencies on the Comfort Care Order Set are increased from standard orders, and nurses are able to titrate without new provider orders. The Comfort Care Order Set will also place a "Comfort Care" banner on the patient's chart to designate the patient is on comfort measures only.

6. Is there additional guidance to help me use the Comfort Care Order Set?

- Penn Medicine Formulary (type "Comfort" in the search bar) – access link:
 - o http://online.lexi.com/lco/action/doc/retrieve/docid/hup_f/5305670?searchUrl=%2Ffco%2Faction%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dcomfort%26t%3Dname%26va%3Dcomfort
- PennPathways/Dorsata for the key steps in the guideline:
 - o https://pathways.dorsata.com/client?user_email=penn@dorsata.com&user_token=bLzfJoeW-qzixnrch9bk#/pathways/2716/view?origin=content_collection

7. Who can I call if I have additional questions about ordering or about comfort care management?

HUP/PPMC: Pall Care Pager - 215-265-2865	PAH: Stan Savinese - 610-761-9789
Tanya Uritsky, PharmD - 267-226-9674	CCH: Mike Soojian - 484-787-9266; Marge Lange - 484-653-8151
Jake Radcliff, PharmD -215-605-122	PMPC: Joy Hertzog - 609-955-0748; David Barile - 609-495-4368