

<b>Medication:</b> Haloperidol	<b>PDN:</b> 6995.02	<b>Last Updated:</b> August 9 2023	<b>PMD:</b> Andrew Travers”	<b>PDC:</b> Tanya Fraser*	Page 1 of 2
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## HALOPERIDOL

### For palliative care use only

#### 1.0 Classification

- Antipsychotic and antiemetic

#### 2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Non-selectively binds to various dopamine and adrenergic receptors in the brain which causes interference with neurotransmission and hormone release affecting wakefulness, vasomotor tone, and emesis.

#### 3.0 Indications

- In the palliative care population for:
  - Delirium
  - Nausea and vomiting secondary to bowel obstruction

#### 4.0 Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity
- Severe CNS depression
- Patients receiving medications that put them at risk for extrapyramidal reactions such as metoclopramide or antipsychotic medications.

#### 5.0 Precautions

- Use with caution for patients with cardiovascular disease as it may cause orthostatic hypotension.
- Use with caution for patients with known seizure disorder as it may lower the seizure threshold.
- Use with caution for patients with known hepatic or renal impairment.

#### 6.0 Route

- Subcut is preferred in the palliative setting.

#### 7.0 Dosage

The dosage listed below is standard dosing and may be amended based on the patient’s care plan and MCCP consultation.

##### **Adult**

- Nausea and vomiting: 0.5-1.0 mg Subcut.
- Delirium: (Mild) 0.5-1.0 mg Subcut; (Moderate) 2.0-2.5 mg Subcut; (Severe) 2.5-5.0 mg Subcut

##### **Pediatric**

- Not recommended for use in patients under the age of 18 unless specifically identified to be used in their written palliative care plan or special patient protocol.

#### 8.0 Supplied

- 5 mg in a 1 mL ampule

#### 9.0 May Be Given By

- ACP/CCP (after consultation with MCCP)

## 10.0 Adverse Effects

- Prolonged QT associated with torsades des pointes.
- Extrapyramidal symptoms such as dystonia, muscle rigidity, akathisia, etc.
  - If signs of extrapyramidal reaction appear consider administering 25 mg IV, IM or Subcut diphenhydramine (subcut is preferred route in the palliative population).

## 11.0 Special Notes

- Due to this medication's risks of negative cardiac events, it is used only in the palliative setting.
- Haloperidol may be used as a second line agent in the setting of other causes of nausea and vomiting.
- Pregnancy category C [if the patient will benefit from a Category C drug, it is generally used]

## 12.0 References

- Palliative Care Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

\*Electronically Signed

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