

<b>Medication:</b> Hydromorphone	<b>PDN:</b> 6997.01	<b>Last Updated:</b> May 25 2015	<b>PMD:</b> Andrew Travers*	<b>PDC:</b> Marty Warren*	Page 1 of 2
----------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------	-------------

## **HYDROMORPHONE**

### **For palliative care use only**

#### **1.0 Classification**

- Narcotic Analgesic

#### **2.0 Mechanism of Action**

- Precise mechanism of action unknown.
- Multiple actions but works primarily on the CNS and organs containing smooth muscle.

#### **3.0 Indications**

- In the palliative care population for:
  - Moderate to severe pain as either a first line drug or when switching medications due to opioid neurotoxicity

#### **4.0 Contraindications**

- Known hypersensitivity
- Status asthma
- Severe CNS depression (relative contraindication in palliative population)
- Severe respiratory depression (relative contraindication in palliative e population)

#### **5.0 Precautions**

- At high doses, as given for malignant cancer pain control, it can be associated with seizures
- Withdrawal symptoms can occur if discontinued abruptly

#### **6.0 Route**

- May be given Subcut

#### **7.0 Dosage**

- Adult**
  - 1-2 mg Subcut
- Pediatric**
  - 0.01-0.02 mg/kg Subcut

#### **8.0 Supplied**

- 2 mg in 1 ml vial

#### **9.0 May Be Given By**

- CCP/ACP/ICP (after consultation with OLMC)

#### **10.0 Adverse effects**

- Opioid neurotoxicity

- Constipation or diarrhea
- Nausea/vomiting
- Drowsiness

### **11.0 Special notes**

- In the palliative population the adverse effects and precautions are more acceptable due to the goals of treatment
- The effects of narcotics can be accentuated by CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines
- Hydromorphone is a Schedule 1 federally controlled substance
- Pregnancy category C (if patient will benefit from a Category C drug, it is generally used)

### **12.0 References**

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

\*Electronically Signed

Copyright © Emergency Health Services