

**To:** Clinical Operation Directors; LTC and Home Health Councils; Seniors Transformation Team; RMACs/LMACs; Professional Practice Office; IH Palliative Physicians; IH Palliative Clinical Nursing Leadership Network, IH Clinical Nurse Specialists; IH Nurse Practitioners; Regional Palliative End of Life Care Services

**From:** Dr. Douglas Smith, Executive Medical Director, Long-term Care, Palliative & End of Life Care, Medical Assistance in Dying, and Clinical Informatics for the Interior Health Authority; Mona Hazel, Director, IH Palliative End of Life Care Services

**Date:** June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**RE: Palliative Symptom Management Kits (SMK) for Home-based Palliation**

To facilitate goal-concordant care and support a person when they choose to palliate and plan a home-based death, **individualized** palliative symptom management kits that align with the BC College of Pharmacists legislation are being introduced across the health authority. These contingency kits provide essential palliative medications, tailored to the individual's needs, considering their disease process to enable quality symptom management in a timely manner and avoid the need for unnecessary transfers to ED and hospital. Medications in the kit are meant for short term contingency use only until a regular prescription can be filled by the pharmacy.

The SMK toolkit will go live on **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020** and is intended for people on the Interior Health Palliative Program who meet the eligibility criteria and have a low risk opioid diversion screen.

A Palliative *Just in Case* Prescription form provides the choices of medications and quantities which best support an individual's anticipated end of life symptoms. For the opioids provided in the SMK, a duplicate prescription must be written, faxed in and then the original mailed or dropped off to the community pharmacy within 3 days.

The medications will be labelled and placed in the SMK, which will only be accessed by the home health nurse, physician/nurse practitioner and advanced paramedics if 911 is called. Medications accessed from the SMK must be documented on a standard documentation record by the user which is located in the SMK bag.

When the prescriptions are entered on the client's Pharmanet profile, we ask that each prescription dosing will begin with "*Palliative Care Just in Case SMK*" to distinguish between the prescriptions dispensed as part of the SMK versus a client's active medication on their Pharmanet profile.

If you have any questions regarding this new process, please feel free to contact the Palliative Clinical Nurse Specialists: Elisabeth Antifeau (250)354-2883 [elisabeth.antifeau@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:elisabeth.antifeau@interiorhealth.ca) or Vicki Kennedy (250)212-7807 [vicki.kennedy@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:vicki.kennedy@interiorhealth.ca)