

Patient and Family Information about Palliative Symptom Response Medication



If you are receiving palliative care services, your doctor or nurse practitioner may order drugs known as **symptom response medications** to help you manage and relieve your symptoms at home.

Medications and supplies are provided through the Home and Community Care Support Services Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HCCSS HNHB) and delivered by Calea Pharmacy to your home in a sealed package.

If you know your doctor or nurse practitioner will be ordering these medications, here are some helpful tips to help you understand the process:

- You or your caregiver are **required, by law, to show your identification to the pharmacy delivery person** when they arrive with your medication package.
- When you receive the medication **DO NOT OPEN the sealed package**. The health care team will open the package when needed.
- **Please call your nurse to report any changes or new symptoms**. At each visit, your nurse will check and manage your medications/supplies to make sure they're ready when needed.
- Always **store these medications away from children and pets in a safe, cool dry place** – preferably out of sight and in a place where your care team can get to the medication easily.
- Medications are to be used only by the designated patient. **They should never be shared with anyone else or kept for future use**.
- Left over medications and supplies should be **put in your biomedical waste container**.
- Contact your HCCSS HNHB Care Coordinator or health care team, and **they will arrange for the no-cost pickup of the biomedical waste container**.
To see the list of pharmacies where unused/expired medications can be returned visit this site: <http://healthsteward.ca/province/ontario/>



For more information, contact your visiting nurse, doctor, nurse practitioner or care coordinator.