

Palliative Symptom Management (BC Provincial)

In this document the term 'patient' is used to describe patients, residents, and clients. The unit of care includes the patient (patient/client/resident) and family (whoever the patient finds supportive).

Site Applicability

All VCH & PHC sites – acute, community, residential

Practice Level

Basic Skill: is a part of the practitioner's basic education

- MD, NP, RN, RPN, LPN

Policy Statements

- Sites/Settings/Services and Units may use either the [BC Provincial Symptom Management Guidelines](#) or [IPAL](#) guidelines for staff but not both.
- Staff and Physicians using the [BC Provincial Symptom Management Guidelines](#) must consider, in addition to physical symptom management, how to address holistically the cultural, spiritual, emotional, mental, and existential aspects of their patient's care as these are hallmarks of quality palliative care but outside the scope of these guidelines.

Need to Know

- These symptom guidelines are intended for clinicians to support effective symptom management for patients with a life limiting illness
- The guidelines do not replace any palliative specialty services
- The unit of care includes the patient (patient/client/resident) and family (whoever the patient finds supportive)
- Symptom guidance include those that are physical and common to more than one life limiting disease
- Guidelines are applicable to all care settings
- The guidelines exclude non-physical symptoms, protocols, pre-printed orders, or other clinical tools specific to care settings and specialties
- Allied professionals may find the guidelines useful, but the intended audience are physicians and nurses
- A printed and interactive PDF format are available

This material has been prepared solely for use at Providence Health Care (PHC), Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). PHC, PHSA and VCH accept no responsibility for use of this material by any person or organization not associated with PHC, PHSA and VCH. A printed copy of this document may not reflect the current electronic version.

Equipment and Supplies

- Smart phone/computer to download
- Printable guidelines are also available

Guideline

[BC Provincial Symptom Management Guidelines](#)

Expected Patient/Client/Resident Outcomes

Improved evidence informed symptom management.

Patient/Client/Resident Education

Education is included in the [BC Provincial Symptom Management Guidelines](#) along with other additional resources and tools.

Site Specific Practices

For additional assistance or resources, please contact your local palliative clinical leadership team.

Documentation

Follow site/program/unit specific guidelines.

Related Documents

See additional resources, references, and documents in the BC Symptom Management Guidelines.

Link to [BC Provincial Symptom Management Guidelines](#).

References

References are included in the B.C. Palliative Symptom Management Guidelines:

<http://www.bc-cpc.ca/cpc/symptom-management-guidelines/>

Effective Date:	23-Jul-2018	
Posted Date:	23-Jul-2018	
Last Revised:	23-Jul-2018	
Last Reviewed:	23-Jul-2018	
Approved By: <i>(committee or position)</i>	PHC	VCH
	Professional Practice Standards Committee Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC)	Vice President, Professional Practice and Chief Clinical Information Officer Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC)
Owners: <i>(optional)</i>	PHC	VCH
	CNS, Elder Care, PHC	Regional Leader, End of Life Care, VCH Professional Practice Lead Nursing, Vancouver Community CNS, Vancouver Home Hospice Palliative Care Service, Vancouver Community Manager, Palliative, Richmond CNS, Seniors and Residential, Coastal CPL/Interim Manager, Vancouver Home Hospice Palliative Care Service, Vancouver Community