



Dear General Practitioner,

Re: Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) Palliative Care Services for Covid-19 planning and resident management in Aged Care Facilities

Please read this letter in conjunction with the attached correspondence concerning end of life medications and prescribing for residents relevant to your practice.

Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) is very supportive of continuing our partnership with the Primary Health Network (PHN) and Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs). The District is implementing strategies to effectively plan responses to manage and contain the Covid-19 virus, whilst maintaining the provision of appropriate medical care to residents.

To best assist you in the care of residents in aged care facilities, we have developed the following resources:

- Prescribing Guidelines for End of Life Symptoms
- COVID-19 and Palliative Care RACF

This information is to guide practice and to facilitate timely prescribing of end of life medications as soon as a resident is suspected or diagnosed for Covid-19; and where symptomatic management is required. It is also important to ensure that RACFs have timely access to these medications when prescribed, in consultation with local pharmacies.

The SLHD RACF Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Consultant will be conducting webinars for GPs over the next few weeks to provide education and support via the PHN team. The Palliative Care Registrar on call at either the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital or Concord Repatriation General Hospital is also available via switchboard if further advice is required. In addition, RACF staff have been advised to contact the SLHD Access Care Team (ACT) on 1300 722 276 in the first instance if residents display respiratory symptoms or develop a fever prior to sending the resident to hospital, unless a medical emergency is warranted.

Should you have any further concerns or require assistance with any of the above please also contact the SLHD ACT team.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Teresa Anderson, AM
Chief Executive
Sydney Local Health District

22-5-20

Associate Professor Philip Beale
Clinical Director, Cancer Services and Palliative Care
Sydney Local Health District

Cc. Dr Michael Moore, Chief Executive, CESPHN