

Family Information Sheet: Waterloo Wellington End of Life Medication Order Set for Long Term Care

The healthcare team will have explained to you that there has been a change in your relative's condition. They believe that the person you care about is nearing the end of their life.

Common Questions	Responses
What are the End of Life (EOL) Medication guidelines?	When death is close, your loved ones' care focuses on comfort. This LTCH uses the WW EOL Medication Order Set and Symptom Management Guideline. This evidence informed guideline includes pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies to manage commonly experienced symptoms at EOL.
Who decides it is necessary?	The decision to begin the WW EOL Medication Order Set and Symptom Management Guideline is made by the Physician/ Nurse Practitioner in consultation with the health care team, the Resident and the Substitute Decision Maker (if appropriate).
Why is it necessary?	It ensures that medications are readily available when required to provide relief of symptoms and avoid unnecessary delays or emergency room visits.
How does it work?	The WW EOL Medication Order Set guides the healthcare team in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and responding promptly to common symptoms that can be experienced at EOL • Providing optimal comfort care
What does it focus on?	<p>Comfort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health care team will assess for pain, ease of breathing, confusion, comfortable positioning, thirst, and other potentially distressing symptoms <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be sure that the best care possible is being provided • To stop medication(s) that are no longer helpful • To be sure medications that assist with comfort are given only when needed <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep everyone updated and aware of what is happening
What happens if the situation stabilizes and improves?	If this occurs, the healthcare team will stop the WW EOL Medication Order Set and a new care plan will be discussed based on your loved ones needs.