

Excessive respiratory tract secretions

Anticipatory prescribing flow chart for the last days of life

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT REPOSITIONING AND FAMILY EDUCATION/SUPPORT ARE PRIORITISED.
Anti-cholinergic medication may not alleviate this symptom.**

Prescribe
Hyoscine butylbromide (Buscopan™) 20mg
Q2 hourly PRN via subcutaneous line (maximum of 120mg/24 hours).

SECRETIONS PRESENT

Consider stat dose and assess effect.

Review within 6 hours:

If symptoms persist and initial dose(s) were helpful, consider hyoscine butylbromide (Buscopan™) 40–80mg over 24 hours via continuous subcutaneous infusion (CSCI).
If hyoscine butylbromide (Buscopan™) is ineffective, do not persist as it causes excessive dryness.

If symptoms persist or support required, contact your local hospice or palliative care team.

See Palliative Care Requests / Palliative Care Advice section on HealthPathways

Anticipatory prescribing ensures that in the last hours and days of life there is no delay responding to a symptom if it occurs.
Please refer to the Te Ara Whakapiri Holistic Considerations for further information.