

SYMPTOMS: Patient enrolled in hospice or palliative care, or who has advance care directives, experiencing complaints related to the illness for which the patient is receiving those services.

Exclusion: Complaints unrelated to the illness for which the patient is receiving those services.

Assessment, Treatment and Interventions

#### ALL LEVELS

1. Perform general patient management.
2. Determine if the patient can communicate and has the capacity to make decisions about treatment and transport.
  - a. If yes, consult directly with the patient before treatment and transport.
  - b. If no, identify any advanced care planning in place for information related to advanced care planning and consent for treatment, such as:
    - i. Advanced care directives.
    - ii. MOLST/POLST (medical/physician order for life sustaining treatment) or similar forms.
    - iii. Guardian, power of attorney, or other accepted health care proxy.
3. Assess breathing capacity; administer oxygen as appropriate.
4. Assess hydration; if the patient appears dehydrated:
  - a. Encourage PO fluid intake if patient can swallow.
  - b. Offer ice chips and swabs soaked in ice water, if available.
5. Assess for secretions; if the patient has excessive secretions, provide suctioning.
6. Assess for nausea; if the patient has nausea, see [Nausea and Vomiting Guideline \[M-10\]](#).
7. Assess for severe respiratory distress and/or anxiety; request ALS for medication administration as appropriate.
8. Coordinate with guardian, power of attorney, or other accepted health care proxy, in collaboration with hospice or palliative care provider, if non-transport is considered.
9. Assess pain level; if the patient requires pain relief see [Pain Management guideline \[M-11\]](#).

#### AEMT-R

10. Consider administration of normal saline at 10 to 20 mL/kg IV

#### MEDICATIONS

##### INT-O; PARA-O

11. Assess breathing capacity; if patient is experiencing severe respiratory distress consider administration of:
  - a. Fentanyl [0.5–1mcg/kg IV/IM/IN (maximum initial dose of 100mcg)]  
OR
  - b. Midazolam [2mg IM/IN/IV/IO]
12. Assess anxiety level. If adult patient is anxious, consider administration of Benzodiazepines OR
13. Haloperidol [Adult: 5mg IM/IV x 1; Pediatric: 0.15mg/kg IM/IV max of 5 mg] OR
14. Ziprasidone [Adult: 10mg IM x 1]