



Association for
Palliative Medicine

Article of the Month

June 2020

Anticipatory prescribing in community end-of-life care in the UK and Ireland during COVID-19 pandemic: Online Survey

Community end-of-life care prescribing and practice is reported to be changing rapidly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A recent survey of 261 clinicians in United Kingdom and Ireland undertaken in April 2020 is the first study to document these changes in anticipatory prescribing guidance and practice which included: routes of drug administration (47%), drugs prescribed (38%), total quantities prescribed (35%), doses and ranges (29%).

Concerns over shortages of nurses and doctors to administer subcutaneous injections led 37% to consider drug administration by family or social caregivers, often by buccal, sublingual and transdermal routes. Clinical contact and patient assessment was increasingly remote, via telephone or video (63%). Strong recommendations for regulatory changes to permit drug repurposing and easier community access were made.

The paper “Anticipatory prescribing in community end-of-life care in the UK and Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic: online survey” Antunes B, Bowers B, Winterburn I, et al

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