

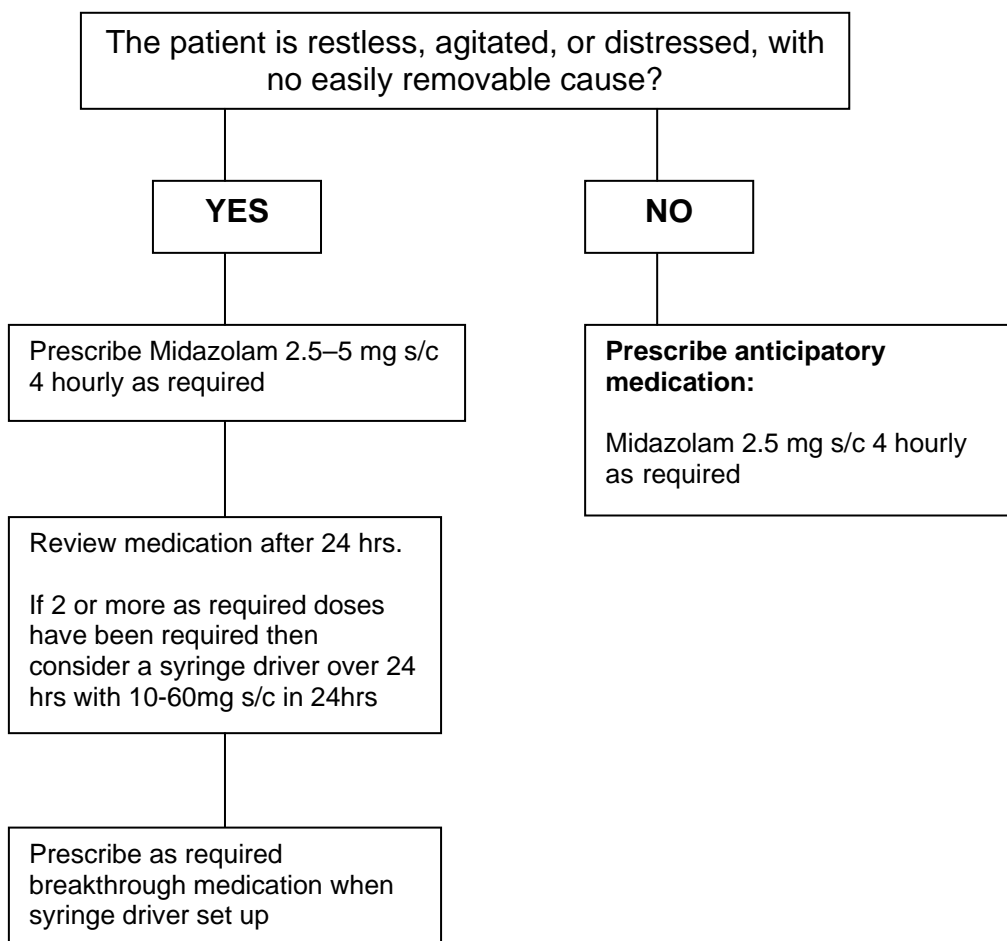
Prescribing algorithm for Restlessness in the DYING PHASE

Before initiating drug treatment, assess the patient for reversible causes of agitation or restlessness:

- Urinary retention
- Constipation
- Pain
- Drug toxicity eg, opioids, phenytoin, digoxin
- Biochemical abnormalities e.g Ca, Na
- Hypoxia
- Spiritual distress

The information for this algorithm is taken from the West Midlands Palliative Care Symptom Control Guidelines.

Note: if patient is at risk of fitting, an increase in dose may be necessary.



If symptoms persist or if advice is needed then please contact specialist palliative care:

Contact details for specialist palliative care **in hours** Mon - Fri:

Add local information

Contact details for specialist palliative care **out of hours**:

Add local information