



HOSPICE COMFORT MEDS

MEDICATION	WHAT IT HELPS	HOW IT WORKS/WHAT YOU'LL SEE	WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW
Morphine (Roxanol)	Shortness of breath, pain	Relaxes breathing muscles, eases air hunger, reduces pain	Very small doses. Does not stop breathing or hasten death. Helps the person relax and breathe easier.
Ativan (Lorazepam)	Anxiety, restlessness, agitation	Calms the nervous system, reduces panic, helps breathing become easier	Not addictive at end of life. Doesn't "knock someone out." Helps the person settle and rest.
Atropine / Hyoscyamine	Noisy breathing, "death rattle"	Dries up excess secretions in the throat	Does not affect the lungs. Reduces the sound — helps the room feel calmer.
Haldol	Hallucinations, confusion, terminal agitation	Calms the mind, reduces restless or frightened behaviors	Very safe at tiny hospice doses. Helps the person feel safer and more at ease.
Zofran / Promethazine / Compazine	Nausea, vomiting	Calms the nausea center in the brain, settles the stomach	Helps people rest and take meds more comfortably. Does not sedate.

Remember: Check with your Hospice Nurse before giving comfort medicine the first time.