Living Every Moment
hospice
taranaki

## Agitation / delirium

### Present

Assess and review cause in consultation with patient and/or whānau member/spokesperson and nursing staff.

- Exclude and/or treat pain.
- Exclude and/or treat urinary retention/constipation.
- Consider spiritual distress and chaplaincy involvement.

1. Prescribe haloperidol 1 mg stat SC and 0.5 mg PRN Q1H SC (max dose of 5 mg/24 hrs).
2. If delirium not settled after 3 PRN doses (total 2 mg haloperidol), commence CSCI with haloperidol 3 mg/24 hrs). Also, prescribe the midazolam 2.5 mg PRN Q1H SC as second line therapy.
3. Assess and review after 12 hours. If symptoms persist, consider increasing haloperidol if effective (CSCI 5 mg/24 hrs) and/or add midazolam 10 mg/24 hrs.
4. Assess and review after 12 hours. If symptoms remain uncontrolled, contact your Specialist Palliative Care Service for further advice.

### Absent

1. Prescribe haloperidol 0.5 mg PRN Q1H SC (max total dose of 5 mg/24 hrs) in anticipation.

**Abbreviations**
SC = subcutaneous
PRN = as required
CSCI = continuous subcutaneous infusion
Q1H = hourly