



Pain Management: Liquid Roxanol

Roxanol may be used to manage pain or trouble breathing throughout an illness or at the end of life. By managing symptoms, Roxanol plays an important role in maintaining comfort and decreasing fear and anxiety.

Roxanol can also ease anxiety and the feeling of air hunger by relaxing respirations, making it easier to breathe.

The hospice care team will work with you to find a pain management plan that meets all of your comfort goals.

Roxanol is administered with a plastic oral syringe that comes with the medicine bottle. The liquid may be swallowed or placed under the tongue or inside the cheek. It can be taken with food or beverage to disguise the bitter taste.

There are a few side effects with Roxanol that usually diminish after the first 2 or 3 days and they include:

Drowsiness: When patients start to take medications like Roxanol, they often feel drowsy at the start. This is fairly common during the first few days of treatment. Our bodies usually will, very quickly, build up a tolerance to the sedating effects and sleepiness goes away in a few days. Most patients, whose pain is well controlled on Roxanol, are not bothered by unusual sleepiness. If you feel too sleepy or groggy, contact us so we can adjust the dosage or try another medications better suited for your pain and your personal goals.

Constipation: Roxanol is prescribed by a physician and monitored by your visit nurses. This side effect is addressed before it starts. Nerves that supply the muscles in the bowel are slowed down by Roxanol which can cause severe constipation. It is very important to begin a stimulant laxative and a stool softener (Senokot-S) when you start Roxanol. If you have not had a bowel movement in 2-3 days, please notify your visit nurse.

If pain or trouble breathing are not getting better 30 minutes after taking this medicine, refer to your medicine instructions or call Hospice of Cincinnati at 513-891-7700.

Questions or concerns?

Call a hospice nurse at 513-891-7700.



Dizziness or lightheadedness: Be sure to get up slowly from sitting or lying down.

Itching skin or nose: Occurs in about 1% of patients taking opioids. This is a side effect, but not a true allergic reaction and may be controlled with another medication if needed. Please let your nurse know if this becomes a problem.

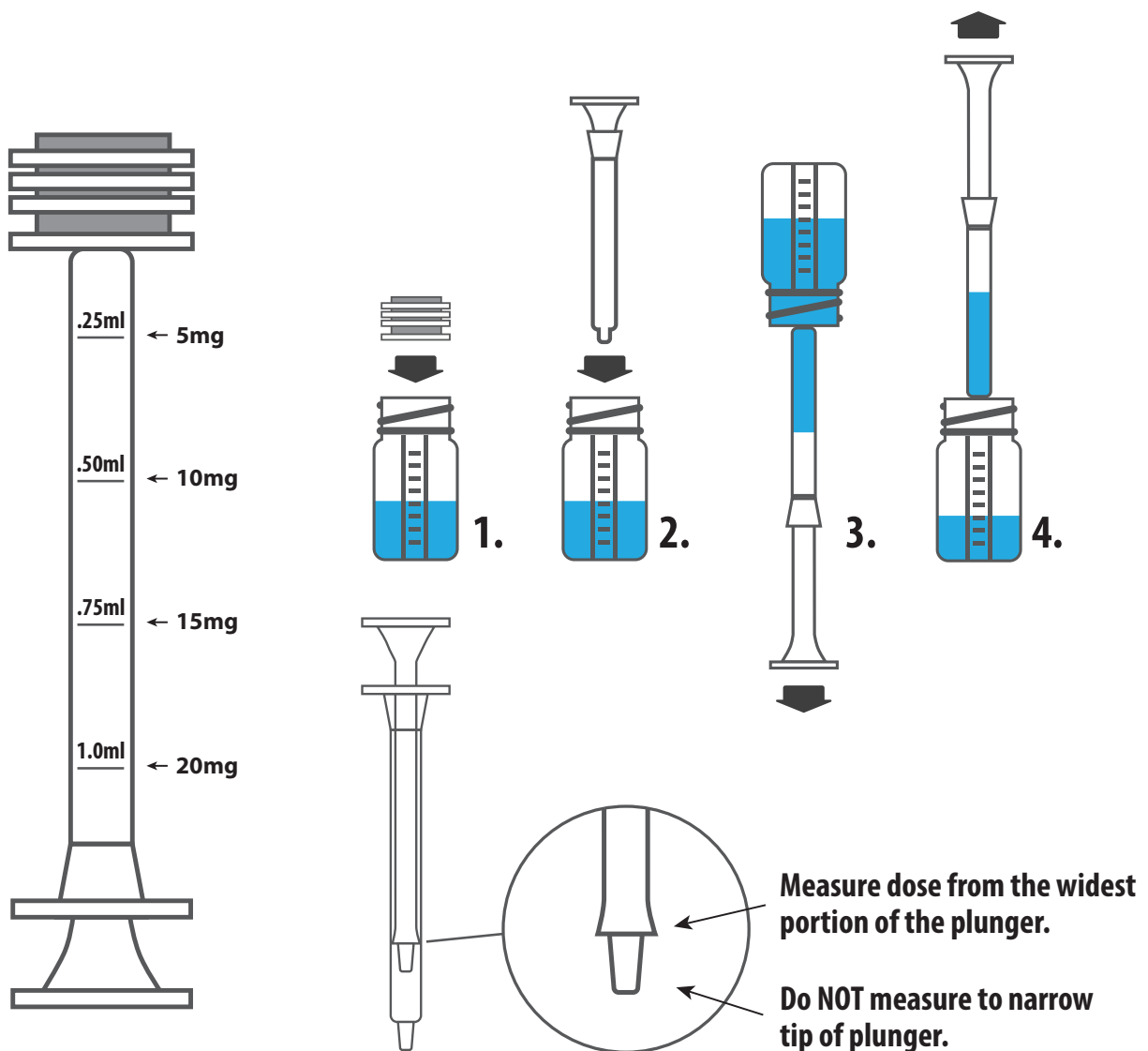
Nausea, vomiting, mild stomach pain: May be common at the start. Usually lessens in 1-2 days. Talk

to your nurse if persists more than one week.

Dry mouth: This side effect is very common and may be persistent. Make sure good oral hygiene is done and offer saliva stimulants or artificial saliva replacement. Popsicles, hard candy, and mints are often helpful.

Confusion or memory changes, visual problems or “seeing things”.

Filling Syringe from Bottle



Questions or concerns?

Call a hospice nurse at 513-891-7700.