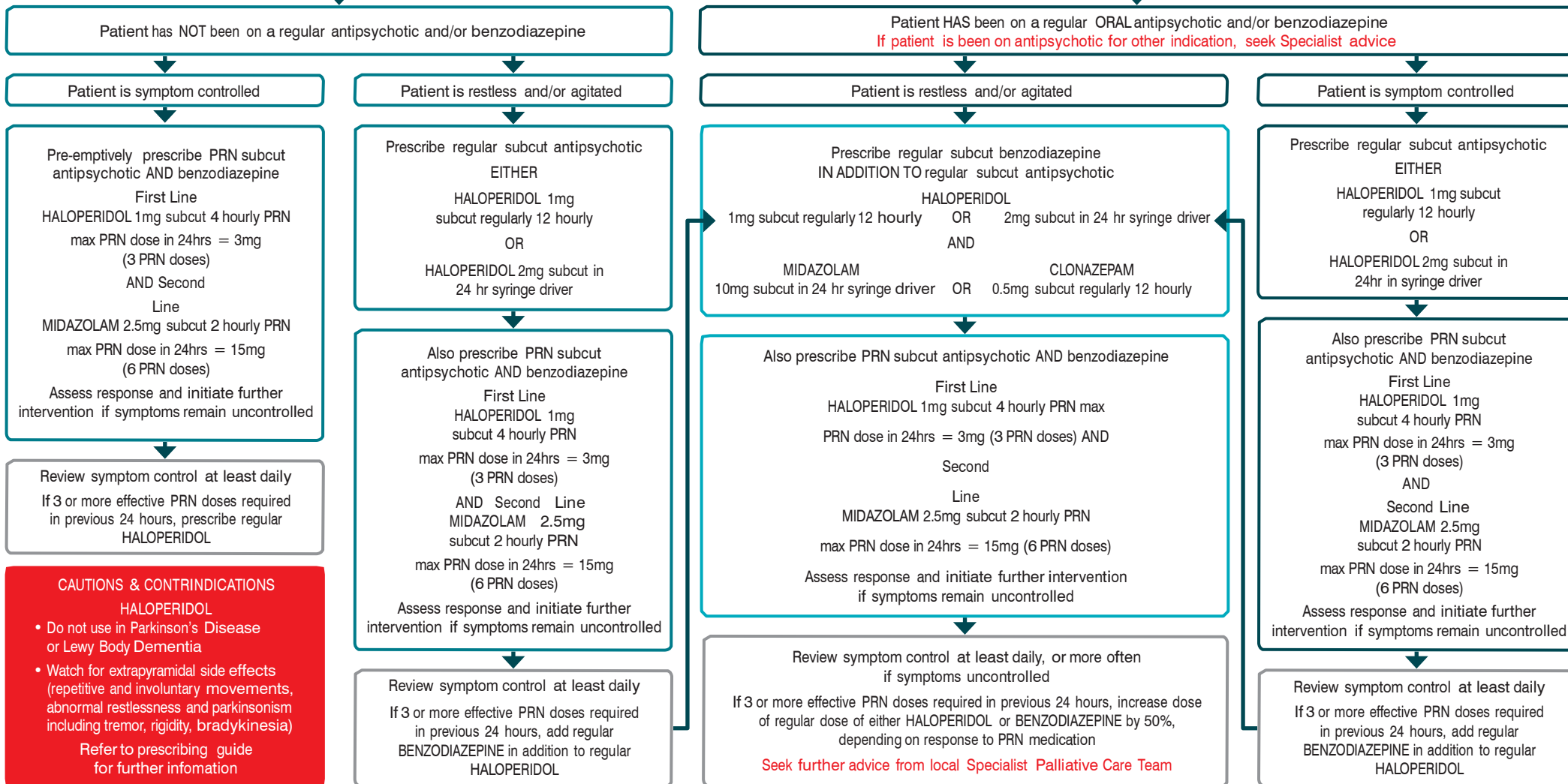


Management of RESTLESSNESS and/or AGITATION in the last days of life – ADULT

IF BENZODIAZEPINE PRESCRIBED FOR RESTLESSNESS & AGITATION, SAME ORDER MAY ALSO BE USED FOR BREATHLESSNESS

Assess patient in the last days of life at least every 4 hours: to allow existing and emerging symptoms to be detected, assessed and treated effectively. Assess symptoms and if restlessness and/or agitation is present: instigate non-pharmacological measures before medications are introduced e.g. exclude and/or manage urinary retention and constipation; address emotional/psychological/spiritual distress; consider alcohol/nicotine/illicit drug withdrawal and consider management/replacement therapy, give PRN antiemetic as below and assess effectiveness



CAUTIONS & CONTRINDICATIONS

HALOPERIDOL

- Do not use in Parkinson's Disease or Lewy Body Dementia
 - Watch for extrapyramidal side effects (repetitive and involuntary movements, abnormal restlessness and parkinsonism including tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia)
- Refer to prescribing guide for further information

VERSION 2: APRIL 2017



Last Days of Life



CLINICAL EXCELLENCE COMMISSION