

# Management of RESPIRATORY TRACT SECRETIONS in the last days of life – ADULT

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 respiratory tract secretions: exclude pulmonary oedema and if present, seek medical review  
 Instigate non-pharmacological measures e.g. reassure family, position semi-prone and on alternate sides to encourage drainage; AVOID suction  
 Give opioid as below and assess effectiveness NOTE: antisecretory medications may be ineffective or only partially effective

