A position statement by Indian Association of Palliative Care

A summary of the IAPC position on the administration of subcutaneous medication to home care patients by family members

The recommendations of the Indian Association of Palliative Care are that:

1. The administration of medication by the sub-cutaneous route is a simple and effective means of administering essential medication when the patient is unable to take oral medication.

2. The family can be taught to give such medication and will receive guidance from the palliative care team.

3. Patient and family teaching should be done done, and informed consent should be obtained before prescribing such medication.

4. The various medications and combinations will be given as per standard guidelines for such medications.

5. The doctor will give the patient and family signed and clearly written instructions regarding administration of the drugs and will ensure they understand these instructions.

6. The palliative care team members will be available for telephone advice when possible.

7. The above practice is deemed 'accepted practice in palliative care' by the IAPC. This statement reflects the views of a responsible body of opinion within the clinical speciality of palliative medicine and pain management.

As per the resolution of the General Body during its annual meeting on 2/2/03 at Hyderabad, the above statement was to be circulated to all members of the executive committee of the IAPC. After finalising and obtaining approval, it is to be adopted by the executive committee on behalf of the IAPC and published in the Indian Journal of Palliative Care

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