



**Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte**  
**Health Service Executive**



<b>CLINICAL DIRECTIVE 01/2011</b>
<b>FROM:</b> Medical Director
<b>TO:</b> Education & Competency Assurance Officers Officers; Advanced Paramedics
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Pain Management-Morphine
Advanced Paramedics may now obtain and possess 30 mg morphine (3 x10 mg ampoules) when on duty at the discretion of their Education and Competency Assurance Officer where there is clear evidential trends that Advanced Paramedics have administered more than 1 maximum dose of Morphine Sulphate in any shift.
<b>RATIONALE:</b> PHECC issued an Interim Directive on Pain Management on Jan 2nd 2011 increasing the maximum permitted dose that an Advanced Paramedic may administer from 10mg to 16mg in cases of musculoskeletal pain only. This will soon be replaced by a Clinical Practice Guideline authorising these changes. This Clinical Directive allows Advanced Paramedics to now carry 30mg morphine when on duty. It is envisaged that the only circumstances that an Advanced Paramedic might require to use 3 ampoules is when having administered morphine IV to a patient, the Advanced Paramedic is dispatched on a second call without having had the opportunity to replenish his/her supply.  NAS policy on management of controlled drugs (below) must be adhered to at all times.  NASCG006 NAS Policy – Management of Controlled Drugs including Morphine Sulphate and Midazolam Reference no. NASCG006 Revision no. 3 Approval Date 19th January 2011
<b>Summary points:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advanced paramedics may administer a maximum of 16mg of Morphine to patients with musculoskeletal pain</li> <li>2. Advanced paramedics are authorised to carry a maximum of 30 mgs of Morphine, where operational needs dictate.</li> </ol>
<b>EFFECTIVE FROM:</b> February 25 <sup>th</sup> 2011
<b>EFFECTIVE TO:</b> Indefinite
<b>QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS DIRECTIVE:</b> To Education and Competency Assurance Officer

Clinical Directives are formulated by the National Ambulance Service Medical Directorate, the National Ambulance Service Education and Competency Assurance Team, the Dublin Fire Brigade Medical Director, the Dublin Fire Brigade EMS Support Team and the Irish Coast Guard Chief Crewman (Standards). Clinical Directives apply to all relevant staff in the HSE National Ambulance Service, Dublin Fire Brigade and Irish Coast Guard helicopter winch-crew.

Seirbhís Náisiúnta Otharchairr  
Teach Dara, Ascaill an Crann Teile, Páirc na Mílaoise, Nás na Rí, Co. Chill Dara

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