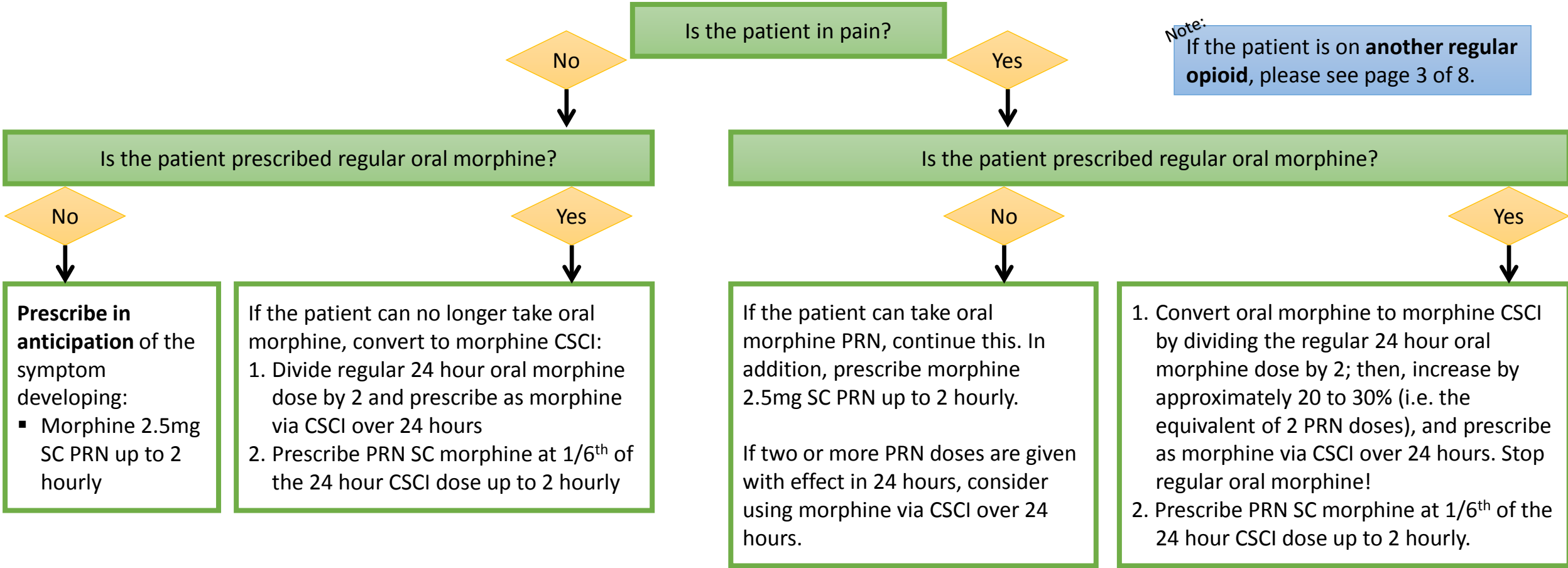
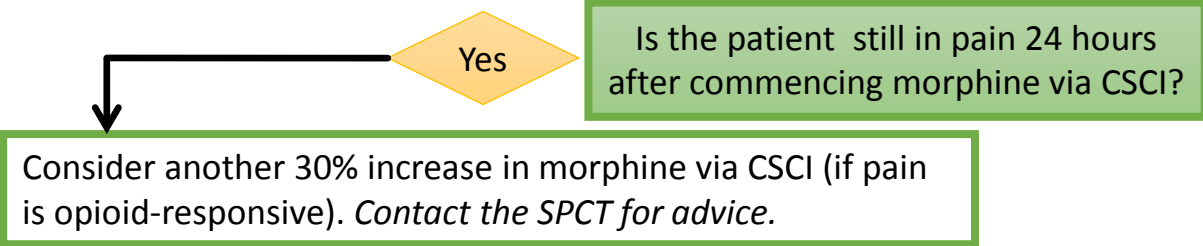


The management of pain with morphine in the last days of life

Note:
If the patient is on **another regular opioid**, please see page 3 of 8.



Note:
Caution required in **renal and/or hepatic impairment** – alternative dosing or medication choice may be required – see page 8 of 8.



Other pain management considerations in the last days of life

Diamorphine

- Diamorphine can be useful where large doses of opioid is needed as smaller volume is required.
- To convert oral morphine to SC diamorphine divide by 3:
E.g. 30mg oral morphine = 10mg SC diamorphine
- All the other prescribing principles remain the same as morphine.

Note:

PRN doses will generally be approximately 1/6th of the total equivalent regular daily opioid dose.

Oxycodone

- Oxycodone may be useful where morphine not tolerated or contraindicated.
 - Oxycodone is often favoured over morphine in mild to moderate renal impairment but caution still required.
 - Oxycodone is generally contraindicated in moderate to severe hepatic failure.
- For converting oral oxycodone to SC oxycodone two different conversions are commonly used. Either:
- Reduce dose by 1/3:
E.g. 30mg oral oxycodone = 20mg SC oxycodone OR
 - Reduce dose by 1/2:
E.g. 30mg oral oxycodone = 15mg SC oxycodone
- Contact the SPCT for advice if needed.*

Fentanyl/Buprenorphine patch(es)

- Leave the patch in situ when commencing a CSCI and continue to change at prescribed frequency.
- PRN dose should be roughly 1/6th of the 24 hour opioid dose including both equivalent patch and CSCI doses.
- See BNF “prescribing in palliative care” section for conversion details or *contact the SPCT for advice* if needed.

Note:

Where **alfentanil** is used via CSCI the PRN dose will likely be morphine or oxycodone as alfentanil is too short-acting to be suitable for PRN use.

Alfentanil

- Alfentanil can be used in moderate to severe renal impairment, *but only under the direction of specialist palliative care team.*
- To convert oral morphine to SC alfentanil divide by 30:
E.g. 30mg oral morphine = 1mg alfentanil