

## F. Using the who ladder at ~~St Gemma's Hospice~~

The 3 steps below are a general guide to using the WHO ladder at St. Gemma's. See under individual drug sections for details of indications and prescribing.

Step 1 – First line = Paracetamol

Second line = Ibuprofen or diclofenac  
= Meloxicam (see B2 'Side effects')

Step 2 – First line = Cocodamol 30/500  
= Cocodamol 8/500 (see D1 Cautions)

Step 3 – First line = Morphine

Second line = If pain is OK on morphine but side effects dominate or pain is partially controlled but side effects limit dose escalation

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1. Consider dose reduction and use adjuvant
  2. Hydromorphone or fentanyl (see E2 and E3)

Third line = If pain is not controlled on morphine (with or without side effects)

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1. Review pain diagnosis and consider adjuvants
  2. Consider methadone (see E4)