



Appendix 35 - PAIN MANAGEMENT IN CANCER PATIENTS

WHO Pain Ladder	
Step	Options
Step 1 (mild pain)	Non opioids (NSAIDs or paracetamol) ± adjuvant
Step 2 (if pain persisting or increasing on step 1 options)	Opioid for mild to moderate pain (hydrocodone, codeine, tramadol) + Non opioids (NSAIDs or paracetamol) ± adjuvant
Step 3 (if pain persisting or increasing on step 2 options)	Opioid for moderate to severe pain (morphine, methadone, fentanyl, oxycodone, buprenorphine, tapentadol, hydromorphone, oxymorphone) + Non opioids (NSAIDs or paracetamol) ± adjuvant
Step 4	invasive and minimally invasive treatment