

# THE BASICS OF MORPHINE



## HOW DOES IT WORK? HOW WILL IT HELP ME?



Blocks the pain signals reducing the feeling of pain



Can reduce the sensation of being short of breath



Improves your ability to participate in daily activities without suffering from as much pain.

## WHEN WILL IT WORK? HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?



**SHORT ACTING**



Starts working within 30-40 minutes.



Lasts up to 4 hours. Use for breakthrough.



**LONG ACTING**



Starts working within 60 minutes.



Lasts up to 8-12 hours. Use for maintenance.

## COMMON SIDE EFFECTS?



### CONSTIPATION

Will not go away on its own. Use daily bowel regimen (e.g., senna [Senokot] or polyethylene glycol [Miralax]) to prevent or treat.



### DIZZINESS

Will likely go away with time. Use caution prior to driving or using machinery (i.e., lawn mower, snow blower, etc.)

## SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS? CALL THE HOSPICE NURSE



- Tongue swelling or full body rash
- Increasing sedation or drowsiness
- Painful stomach cramping with no bowel movements