

A GUIDE TO EQUIVALENT DOSES FOR OPIOID DRUGS

This is to be used as **a guide** rather than a set of definitive equivalences. Most data on doses is based on single dose studies so is not necessarily applicable in chronic use. Individual patients may metabolise different drugs at varying rates. The advice is always to calculate doses using morphine as standard and to adjust them to suit the patient and the situation. Some of these doses have by necessity been rounded up or down to fit in with the preparations available.

Oral Morphine			Subcutaneous Morphine		Subcutaneous Diamorphine		Oral Oxycodone			Subcutaneous Oxycodone		Fentanyl Transdermal	Subcutaneous Alfentanil		Subcutaneous Fentanyl	
4 hr dose (mg)	12hr SR dose (mg)	24hr Total dose (mg)	4 hr dose (mg)	24 hr total dose (mg)	4 hr dose (mg)	24 hr total dose (mg)	4hr dose (mg)	12hr SR dose (mg)	24hr total dose (mg)	4 hr dose (mg)	24 hr total dose (mg)	Patch strength (microgram)	4 hr dose (mg)	24hr total dose (mg)	4 hr dose (microgram)	24hr total dose (microgram)
5	15	30	2.5	15	1.25	10	2.5	7.5	15	1.25	7.5	12	0.125	1	25	200
10	30	60	5	30	2.5-5	20	5	15	30	2.5	15	25	0.25	1.5	50	300
15	45	90	7.5	45	5	30	7.5	25	50	3.75	25	25	0.5	3	100	600
20	60	120	10	60	7.5	40	10	30	60	5	30	37	0.75	4	Syringe pump volume issues likely above 500 micrograms/24hours	
30	90	180	15	90	10	60	15	45	90	7.5	45	50	1	6		
40	120	240	20	120	12.5	80	20	60	120	10	60	75	1.25	8		
50	150	300	25	150	15	100	25	75	150	12.5	75	75	1.5	10		
60	180	360	30	180	20	120	30	90	180	15	90	100	2	12		
70	210	420	35	210	25	140	35	105	210	17.5	100	125	2.5	14		
80	240	480	40	240	27.5	160	40	120	240	20	120	125	2.5	16		
90	270	540	45	270	30	180	45	135	270	22.5*	135	150	3	18		
100	300	600	50	300	35	200	50	150	300	25*	150	150	3.5	20		
110	330	660	55	330	37.5	220	55	165	330	27.5*	165	175	3.75	22		
120	360	720	60	360	40	240	60	180	360	30*	180	200	4	24		

Reproduced with kind permission of Margaret Gibbs, St Christopher's Hospice (original chart 2010).

* this dose requires using 50mg in 1ml injection as it would otherwise be too large a volume for a sc injection. **Caution with this strength.**

- A PO morphine;transdermal fentanyl dose conversion ratio of 150:1 is used
- This chart has been amended to incorporate the availability of Fentanyl Transdermal 12 mcg patches and to include approximate equivalent doses of subcutaneous Fentanyl.
- The dose conversion ratio of SC diamorphine: SC alfentanil from 10-6:1. It is prudent to use the more conservative ratio when switching from one to the other e.g. if switching from diamorphine to alfentanil, use dose conversion ratio 10:1 so that 10mg diamorphine = 1mg alfentanil. If switching from alfentanil to diamorphine use dose conversion ratio 6:1 so that 1mg alfentanil = 6mg diamorphine.

Please seek specialist advice if you are uncertain about what to prescribe.