

A GUIDE TO EQUIVALENT DOSES FOR OPIOID DRUGS

N.B. – 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, also individual patients may metabolise different drugs at varying rates. The advice is always to calculate doses using oral 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		Oral oxycodone			Subcutaneous oxycodone		Fentanyl transdermal
4-hr dose (mg)	12-hr SR dose (mg)	24-hr total dose (mg)	4-hr dose (mg)	24-hr total dose (mg)	4-hr dose (mg)	12-hr SR dose (mg)	24-hr total dose (mg)	4-hr dose (mg)	24-hr total dose (mg)	Patch strength (micrograms)
5	15	30	2.5	15	2.5	7.5	15	1.25	7.5	12.5mcg
10	30	60	5	30	5	15	30	2.5	15	25mcg
15	45	90	7.5	45	7.5	25	50	3.75	25	25mcg
20	60	120	10	60	10	30	60	5	30	50mcg
30	90	180	15	90	15	45	90	7.5	45	50mcg
40	120	240	20	120	20	60	120	10	60	75mcg
50	150	300	25	150	25	75	150	12.5	75	75mcg
60	180	360	30	180	30	90	180	15	90	100mcg
70	210	420	35	210	35	105	210	17.5	100	125mcg
80	240	480	40	240	40	120	240	20	120	125mcg
90	270	540	45	270	45	135	270	Max sub-cut vol.	135	150mcg
100	300	600	50	300	50	150	300		150	150mcg
110	330	660	55	330	55	165	330		165	175mcg
120	360	720	60	360	60	180	360		180	200mcg