

EQUIVALENT DOSE RATIOS FOR OPIOIDS

Oral morphine : injectable morphine - 2 : 1

e.g. 20mg oral morphine : 10mg injectable morphine

Oral morphine : oral oxycodone - 2 : 1

e.g. 20mg oral morphine : 10mg oral oxycodone

Oral oxycodone : injectable oxycodone - 2 : 1

e.g. 20mg oral oxycodone : 10mg injectable oxycodone

Oral morphine : transdermal fentanyl (Durogesic)

Patch strength	Medication	Delivery rate (mcg/hour)	Oral morphine (mg/24hr)
Durogesic 12	Fentanyl	12.5	20 - 60
Durogesic 25	Fentanyl	25	60 - 134
Durogesic 50	Fentanyl	50	135 - 224
Durogesic 75	Fentanyl	75	225 - 314
Durogesic 100	Fentanyl	100	315 - 404

Oral morphine : transdermal buprenorphine (Norspan)

Patch strength	Medication	Delivery rate (mcg/hour)	Oral morphine (mg/24hr)
Norspan 5	Buprenorphine	5	9 - 13
Norspan 10	Buprenorphine	10	18 - 26
Norspan 20	Buprenorphine	20	36 - 53

Notes

If a drug is stronger, the dose required is smaller

For conversions from one alternate opioid to another, direct conversion ratios are not so reliable. The preferred method is to convert drug A to oral morphine then go from oral morphine to drug B – this may involve several steps. To check, use the Guide to Equivalent Doses for Opioid Drugs chart.

For fentanyl and buprenorphine patches, remember that the strength refers to the hourly absorption so:

- 5mcg per hour = 24 x 5mcg in 24 hours = 120mcg in 24hrs
- 25mcg per hour = 24 x 25mcg in 24 hours = 600mcg in 24hrs
- 100mcg per hour = 24 x 100mcg in 24 hours = 2.4mg in 24hrs