

A GUIDE TO EQUIVALENT DOSES FOR OPIOIDS

This is to be used as a guide rather than a set of definitive equivalences and is not a prescribing guide in itself. Most data on is based on single dose studies in healthy individuals so is not necessarily applicable in chronic use, also individuals metabolise different drugs at varying rates. The advice is always to calculate doses using morphine as standard and to adjust them to suit the person and the situation. Some of these doses have by necessity been rounded up or down to fit in with the preparations available and avoid decimal points and risky liquid volume measurements

Oral morphine Doses in mg			Sub- cutaneous Morphine Dose in mg		Sub- cutaneous diamorphine Dose in mg		Oral oxycodone Dose in mg			Subcutaneous oxycodone Dose in mg		Fentanyl transdermal Dose in micrograms	Subcutaneous Alfentanil Dose in mg		Buprenorphine transdermal Dose in micrograms
4-hr	12- hr MR	24- hr total	4-hr	24-hr total	4-hr	24- hr total	4-hr dose	12-hr MR	24-hr total	4-hr	24-hr total	Patch strength	4-hr dose	24- hour total	Patch strength
5	15	30	2.5	15	1	10	2 to3	7.5 to10	15 to 20	1 to 2	7.5 to 15	12	0.1	1	10
10	30	60	5	30	2 to 5	20	5 to 7	15 to 20	30 to 40	2 to 5	15 to 30	25	0.2	1.5	10 to 20
15	45	90	7.5	45	5	30	7 to10	25 to 30	50 to 60	3 to 7	25 to 50	25 to 37	0.5	3	35
20	60	120	10	60	7.5	40	10 to 15	30 to 40	60 to 80	5 to10	30 to 60	37 to 50	0.7	4	52.5
30	90	180	15	90	10	60	15 to 20	45 to 60	90 to 120	7.5 to 15	45 to 90	50 to 75	1	6	70
40	120	240	20	120	12	80	20 to 25	60 to 80	120 to 160	10 to 20	60 to 120	75 to 100	1	8	consider changing to fentanyl transdermal
50	150	300	25	150	15	100	25 to 30	75 to 100	150 to 200	12 to 25	75 to 150	100 to 150	1.5	10	
60	180	360	30	180	20	120	30 to 40	90 to 120	180 to 240	15 to 30	90 to 180	100 to150	2	12	
70	210	420	35	210	25	140	35 to 45	105 to 140	210 to 280	17 to 35	100 to 200	125 to 175	2.5	14	
80	240	480	40	240	27	160	40 to 50	120 to 160	240 to 320	20 to 40	120 to 240	125 to 200	2.5	16	
90	270	540	45	270	30	180	45 to 60	135 to 180	270 to 360	22 to 45	135 to 270	150 to 225	3	18	
100	300	600	50	300	35	200	50 to 65	150 to 200	300 to 400	25* to 50*	150 to 300	200 to 300	3.5	20	
110	330	660	55	330	37	220	55 to 70	165 to 220	330 to 440	27* to 55*	165 to 330	225 to 325	3.5	22	
120	360	720	60	360	40	240	60 to 80	180 to 240	360 to 480	30* to 60*	180 to 360	237 to 350	4	24	

* 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**

THIS CHART PROVIDES APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENT DOSES FOR OPIOIDS AND ONLY FORMS PART OF A PRESCRIBING DECISION

- Conversion ratios for oral morphine to fentanyl patches and morphine to oxycodone vary between expert groups so a range is now offered.
- When in doubt, choose the lower dose for any conversion
- For conversions from oral morphine to fentanyl patches, the lower doses are suggested for people who have been on oral opioids for just weeks and the higher doses are suggested for people who have been on oral opioids for months
- **Refs; PCF5, BNF, SPCs, UKMi information sheets**

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