

# StChristopher's

## Dose *equivalent* ratios for step 2 opioids

As with any equivalence chart, **this is only to be used as a guide**. Data on equivalent doses usually come from single dose studies in healthy individuals. Always consider **individual patient factors** and the **reason** for switching drugs. For safety, it is advisable to **use a lower dose** when in any doubt

### ORAL to ORAL medicines

Oral analgesic	Approximate potency ratio with oral morphine	Examples /Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Codeine</li> <li>Co-codamol 30/500</li> <li>Dihydrocodeine</li> <li>Co-dydramol</li> <li>Tramadol</li> </ul>	10:1	30mg codeine : 3 mg morphine p.o <b>TWO</b> co-codamol 30/500: 5mg morphine p.o Tramadol 50mg : 5mg morphine p.o
Oxycodone	2:1 to 1.5:1	5 to 7mg oxycodone p.o : 10mg morphine p.o
Methadone	As a single dose 7.5mg methadone: 5mg morphine p.o	<b>But</b> switching from morphine after prolonged use to methadone often results in a dose 5-10 times smaller than the original morphine dose - look at specific guidance for Methadone on the pharmacy intranet

### Oral to transdermal medicines

*Transdermal ratios compare micrograms per hour with mg in 24hrs so the calculation is complex  
Up to 3 patches may be used to provide an appropriate dose e.g. 37 micrograms fentanyl = 25 + 12*

Transdermal analgesic	Examples
Buprenorphine	5 microgram weekly patch : 12-15mg morphine p.o in 24hrs 10 microgram weekly patch : 24-30mg morphine p.o in 24hrs 20 microgram weekly patch : 48-60mg morphine p.o in 24hrs 35 microgram 4-day patch : 90mg morphine p.o in 24hrs 52.5 microgram 4-day patch : 120mg morphine p.o in 24hrs 70 microgram 4-day patch : 180 mg morphine p.o in 24hrs
Fentanyl	12 microgram 3-day patch : 30mg morphine p.o. in 24hrs 25 microgram 3-day patch : 60mg morphine p.o in 24hrs 50 microgram 3-day patch : 120mg morphine p.o in 24hrs 75 microgram 3-day patch : 180mg to 240mg morphine p.o in 24hrs 100 microgram 3-day patch : 240mg to 300mg morphine p.o in 24hrs

### Oral to subcutaneous medicines

Sub-cutaneous analgesic	ratio	Examples
Morphine SC : morphine p.o	2:1	5mg morphine SC : 10mg morphine p.o
Diamorphine SC: morphine p.o	3:1	5mg diamorphine SC : 15mg morphine p.o
Oxycodone SC: oxycodone p.o	2:1	5mg oxycodone SC : 10mg oxycodone p.o

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