Equivalent dose ratios for opioids

Oral morphine : injectable morphine 2 : 1 e.g. 20mg oral morphine : 10mg injectable morphine
Oral morphine : injectable diamorphine 3 : 1 e.g. 30mg oral morphine : 10mg injectable diamorphine
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 100 – 150 : 1 e.g. oral morphine 60 – 90mg in 24 hours : fentanyl patch 25mcg per hr
Injectable diamorphine : transdermal fentanyl 30 – 50 : 1 e.g. injectable diamorphine 20 – 30mg in 24 hours : fentanyl patch 25mcg per hour A rough guide is the dose of diamorphine (in mg over 24 hours) *is in the region of the dose of fentanyl* (in micrograms per hour)
Injectable diamorphine : injectable alfentanil 10 : 1 e.g. 20mg injectable diamorphine : 2mg injectable alfentanil

Reminder

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 chart

For fentanyl patches remember that the strength refers to the hourly absorption so 25mcg per hour = 24 x 25mcg in 24 hours (600mcg in 24hrs)
100mcg per hour = 24 x 100mcg in 24 hours (2.4mg in 24 hrs)