



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 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		Subcutaneous diamorphine		Oral oxycodone			Subcutaneous oxycodone		Fentanyl transdermal	Subcutaneous Alfentanil	
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)	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)	4-hr dose (mg)	24-hour total dose (mg)
5	15	30	2.5	15	1.25	10	2.5	7.5	15	1.25	7.5	25mcg	0.125	1
10	30	60	5	30	2.5	15	5	15	30	2.5	15	25mcg	0.25	1.5
15	45	90	7.5	45	5	30	7.5	25	50	3.75	25	25mcg	0.5	3
20	60	120	10	60	7.5	40	10	30	60	5	30	50mcg	0.75	4
30	90	180	15	90	10	60	15	45	90	7.5	45	50mcg	1	6
40	120	240	20	120	12.5	80	20	60	120	10	60	75mcg	1.25	8
50	150	300	25	150	15	100	25	75	150	12.5	75	75mcg	1.5	10
60	180	360	30	180	20	120	30	90	180	15	90	100mcg	2	12
70	210	420	35	210	25	140	35	105	210	17.5	100	125mcg	2.5	14
80	240	480	40	240	27.5	160	40	120	240	20	120	125mcg	2.5	16
90	270	540	45	270	30	180	45	135	270	Max	135	150mcg	3	18
100	300	600	50	300	35	200	50	150	300	sub-	150	150mcg	3.5	20
110	330	660	55	330	37.5	220	55	165	330	cut	165	175mcg	3.75	22
120	360	720	60	360	40	240	60	180	360	vol	180	200mcg	4	24