

Opioid Conversion Chart

Morphine 4hrly (o)	Morphine MR BD (o)	Total 24h Morphine (o) (adding 4hrly doses)	Oxycodone 4hrly (o)	Oxycodone MR BD (o)	Oxycodone 4hrly (sc)	Total 24h (sc) Oxycodone	Diamorphine 4hrly (sc)	Total 24 h (sc) Diamorphine	Fentanyl patch 72hrly
5mg	20mg ¹	30mg	2.5mg	10mg		15mg	1.25-2.5mg	10mg	25mcg
10mg	30mg	60mg	5mg	20mg	5mg	30mg	2.5-5mg	20mg	25mcg
15mg	50mg ¹	90mg	10mg	30mg	7.5mg	45mg	5mg	30mg	25mcg
20mg	60mg	120mg	12.5mg	40mg	10mg	60mg	5-7.5mg	40mg	25-50mcg
30mg	90mg	180mg	20mg	60mg	15mg	90mg	10mg	60mg	50mcg
40mg	120mg	240mg	25mg	80mg	20mg	120mg	15mg	80mg	50-75mcg
50mg	150mg	300mg	35mg	100mg	25mg	150mg	15-20mg	100mg	75mcg
60mg	180mg	360mg	40mg	120mg	30mg	180mg	20mg	120mg	100mcg
70mg	200mg ²	420mg	45mg	130mg	35mg	210mg	20-25mg	140mg	125mcg
80mg	240mg	480mg	50mg	160mg	40mg	240mg	25mg	160mg	125-150mcg
90mg	260mg ²	540mg	60mg	170mg	45mg	270mg	30mg	180mg	150mcg
100mg	300mg	600mg	65mg	200mg	50mg	300mg	30-35mg	200mg	150-175mcg
110mg	330mg	660mg	70mg	220mg	55mg	330mg	35mg	220mg	175mcg
120mg	360mg	720mg	80mg	240mg	60mg	360mg	40mg	240mg	200mcg
140mg	420mg	840mg	90mg	280mg	70mg	420mg	45mg	280mg	225-250mcg
160mg	480mg	960mg	105mg	320mg	80mg	480mg	55mg	320mg	275mcg
180mg	540mg	1080mg	120mg	360mg	90mg	540mg	60mg	360mg	300mcg
200mg	600mg	1200mg	130mg	400mg	100mg	600mg	70mg	400mg	350mcg
300mg	900mg	1800mg	200mg	600mg	150mg	900mg	100mg	600mg	500mcg

Notes

- Potency of **oral** Oxycodone reviewed by palliativedrugs.com recently and now thought to be morphine 1.5mg: oxycodone 1mg
- Oxycodone **subcutaneous** conversions are constantly being reviewed as this is a new product. Latest advice is oral oxycodone 1.5mg: parenteral oxycodone 1mg and parenteral oxycodone 1.5mg: parenteral diamorphine 1mg.

(The manufacturers conversion rates differ from the recommendations of palliativedrugs.com. Individual variance in response to opioids is always to be expected and careful titration according to individual response will be required)

- Alfentanil can be used as an alternative opioid parenterally and the total dose is one tenth of the diamorphine dose
- Morphine can be used parenterally and the dose conversion is one half of the oral dose (the same as the oxycodone parenteral dose)
- Methadone conversion more complex and not dealt with here.

¹ Rounded up to take into account specific tablet sizes available

² Rounded down to take into account specific tablet sizes available

- More precise equivalencies of Morphine to Fentanyl given in separate table below
- Hydromorphone only used infrequently: approximately 7.5 times as potent as Morphine orally.
- Patients on weak opioids are not opioid naïve – equivalent doses to morphine need to be taken into account – see separate table below.
- When converting from a HIGH dose of any opioid to another (say, over the equivalent of 500mg/day of morphine) it is usual to halve the calculated conversion dose initially to avoid opioid toxicity (Ref: PCF2 and other sources)
- Double check all conversions – take time and refer to PCF2 or Handbook of Palliative Medicine (Ian Back)
- When a patient is in terminal stage of illness and diamorphine is to be given by syringe driver as additional (“top up”) analgesia, the Fentanyl patch should stay on. Stat doses of diamorphine can be calculated by dividing the patch strength in mcg by 5 (i.e. a 100mcg patch requires 20mg diamorphine as breakthrough analgesia). For the initial syringe driver 24-hour dose, the addition of all the previous 24hour stat doses given can be used, or, if difficult to estimate, the equivalent of 2 or 3 stat doses can be used on the first day.

24 hour oral morphine (mg)	Fentanyl patch strength (mcg)	Breakthrough 4 hourly morphine (mg)
<135	25	<20
135-224	50	25-35
225-314	75	40-50
315-404	100	55-65
405-494	125	70-80
495-594	150	85-95
595-674	175	100-110
675-764	200	115-125
765-854	225	130-140
855-944	250	145-155
945-1034	275	160-170
1035-1124	300	175-185

(there is no upper limit)

Analgesic and dose	Relative morphine equivalent (mg)
Dihydrocodeine 240mg in 24 hours	24
Codeine phosphate 240mg in 24 hours	24
Buprenorphine 600mcg in 24 hours	36
Tramadol 200mg in 24 hours	40

Oxycodone MR tablets are available in 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg and 80mg strengths
 Zomorph capsules are available in 10mg, 30mg, 60mg, 100mg and 200mg strengths

These charts were modified 7/2/05 and will be constantly reviewed and updated: Dr Joy Waldock