

Palliative Care Guide for GPs

For Medical Advice contact Barwon Health Specialist Palliative Care Services

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Opioid Conversions Please note:

- When changing from one opioid to another there may be incomplete cross-tolerance and apparent dose reduction may be necessary. This may be particularly seen at higher doses or rapidly escalating doses.
- Patients will vary in their response to different opioids. The chart's conversion factors are an estimate only. After changing opioid, close assessment should follow and the dose altered as necessary.

Opioid Equi-analgesic doses:

Morphine	oral	10mg
	S/C or IM	5 mg
Oxycodone	oral	6.6mg
Hydromorphone	oral	2mg
	S/C	1mg
Codeine	oral	60mg
Tramadol	oral	50mg
Methadone		complicated
Fentanyl transdermal		see below

Oral Morphine Dose Fentanyl Patch Total Daily Oral Morphine Dose

<u>Mg/Q4h</u>	<u>mcg/hr</u>	<u>mg/24hrs</u>
10	12	<60
20	25	60-134
35	50	135-224
50	75	225-314
65	100	315-404
80	125	405-494
95	150	495-584
110	175	585-674
125	200	675-764
140	215	765-854
155	250	855-944
170	275	945-1034
185	300	1035-1124

Opioid Conversion Chart Instructions

1. Add current opioid doses to get total milligrams per 24 hours (for Fentanyl note the total hourly rate in mcg)
2. Use conversion chart-
 - i. Identify current opioid in column on far left
 - ii. Scan across to column corresponding to new opioid
 - iii. Note conversion factor and whether to be multiplied or divided
3. Multiply or divide current opioid total by conversion factor.
This will give the dose of the new opioid in milligrams per 24 hours
4. Divide 24 hours dose by appropriate number
 - ie. 2 for BD dosing of 6 for q4H dosing or 100% breakthrough dose

OPIOID CONVERSION CHART

		TO		codeine		morphine		oxycodone		hydromorphone		fentanyl
		PO	SC	PO	SC	PO	SC	PO	SC	TD		
FROM		mg/day	mg/day	mg/day	mg/day	mg/day	mg/day	mg/day	mg/day	mg/day	mg/day	mcg/hour
codeine	PO mg/day		8	20	12	20	40	120	24			
morphine	PO mg/day	8		2.5	1.5	2.5	5	15	3			
morphine	SC mg/day	20	2.5		0.6	1	2	6	1.2			
oxycodone	PO mg/day	12	1.5	0.6		1.67	3.33	10	2			
oxycodone	SC mg/day	20	2.5	1	1.67		2	6	1.2			
hydromorphone	PO mg/day	40	5	2	3.33	2		3	0.6			
hydromorphone	SC mg/day	120	15	6	10	6	3		0.2			
fentanyl	TD mcg/hour	24	3	1.2	2	1.2	0.6	0.2				

Reference: Sacred Heart Hospital,
Palliative Care Service, Sydney

multiply



divide



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