

A GUIDE TO EQUIVALENT DOSES FOR OPIOID DRUGS FOR SPECIALISTS

This table of doses is a **guide** not a set of definitive equivalences. Use the table to identify an appropriate starting point for your prescribing decision.

ALL prescribing decisions must be based on a **full clinical assessment**. Ask if the pain is opioid responsive.

Consider **reducing prescribed opioid dose by 30-50%** if converting from one route to another route

Think about the role of adjuvant medication before rotating opioids, changing the dose or route.

Be aware of drug interactions and remember individual patients may metabolise different drugs at varying rates.

Oral Morphine		Oral Oxycodone		Oral Tapentadol		Transdermal Buprenorphine		Transdermal Fentanyl	Subcutaneous Morphine		Subcutaneous Oxycodone		Subcutaneous Alfentanil		Subcutaneous Diamorphine		
4-hr dose (mg)	12-hr SR dose (mg)	4-hr dose (mg)	12-hr SR dose (mg)	6-hr dose (mg)	12-hr SR dose (mg)	BuTrans (mcg/hr) <i>change every seven days</i>	Transtec (mcg/hr) <i>change every four days</i>	Patch strength (mcg/hr) <i>change every three days</i>	4-hr dose (mg)	24-hr CSCI dose (mg)	4-hr dose (mg)	24-hr CSCI dose (mg)	4-hr dose (mg)	24-hr CSCI dose (mg)	4-hr dose (mg)	24-hr CSCI dose (mg)	
1.25	5	-	-	Rarely used as sole opioid. Use in addition to background opioid. USE SR preps.		5	-	-	0.5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2.5	10	1	5			10	-	-	1.25	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	15	2.5	10			15	-	12	2.5	15	1.25	10	-	1	1.25	10	
10	30	5	15			25	-	25	5	30	2.5	15	0.25	2	2.5-5	20	
15	45	7.5	25		50	35	35	37	7.5	45	3.75	22.5	0.5	3	5	30	
20	60	10	30		100	-	52.5	50	10	60	5	30	0.75	4	7.5	40	
30	90	15	45		150	-	70	75	15	90	7.5	45	1.0	6	10	60	
40	120	20	60		200	-	105	100	20	120	10	60	1.5	8	12.5	80	
50	150	25	75		250	-	122.5	125	25	150	12.5	75	1.5	10	15	100	
60	180	30	90	-	-	-	140	150	30	180	15	90	2	12	20	120	
FULL PAIN RE-ASSESSMENT						FULL PAIN RE-ASSESSMENT			FULL PAIN RE-ASSESSMENT								
70	210	35	105	-	-	-	-	175	35	210	17.5	100	2.5	14	25	140	
80	240	40	120	=	-	-	-	200	40	240	20	120	3	16	27.5	160	
90	270	45	135	=	-	-	-	225	45	270	22.5	135	3.5	18	30	180	
100	300	50	150	-	-	-	-	250	50	300	25	150	3.75	20	35	200	
110	330	55	165	-	-	-	-	275	55	330	27.5	165	4	22	37.5	220	
120	360	60	180	-	-	-	-	300	60	360	30	180	4.5	24	40	240	