

Opioid Conversion Chart

There are differences in the literature regarding opioid conversion ratios. The conversion ratios listed below are the conversion ratios commonly used in practice at Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services (OLH&CS). The information outlined below is intended as a guide only. **ALL OPIOID CONVERSIONS OUTLINED BELOW ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.** Therefore, all medication doses derived using the information below should be checked and prescribed by an experienced practitioner. The dosage of a new opioid is based on several factors including the available equi-analgesic dose data, the clinical condition of the patient, concurrent medications and patient safety. **It is recommended that the new dose should be reduced by 30-50% to allow for incomplete cross-tolerance.** The patient should be monitored closely until stable when switching opioid medications.

GOLDEN RULE: WHEN CHANGING FROM ONE OPIOID TO ANOTHER ALWAYS CONVERT TO MORPHINE FIRST.

ORAL MORPHINE TO ORAL OPIOIDS		ORAL OPIOIDS TO PARENTERAL OPIOIDS		PARENTERAL MORPHINE TO OTHER OPIOIDS		TRANSDERMAL OPIOID TO ORAL MORPHINE	
PO → PO	RATIO	PO → IV/SC	RATIO	IV/SC → IV/SC	RATIO	TD → PO	RATIO
Morphine → Oxycodone	1.5:1	Morphine → Morphine	2:1	Morphine → Oxycodone	1.5:1 ^a	Buprenorphine → Morphine	1:75
Morphine → Hydromorphone	5:1	Oxycodone → Oxycodone	2:1	Morphine → Hydromorphone	5:1	Fentanyl → Morphine	1:100
		Hydromorphone → Hydromorphone	2:1	Morphine → Alfentanil	15:1		

(Note: This table does not incorporate recommended dose reductions of 30-50%.)

MORPHINE 24 hour dose		OXYCODONE ^a 24 hour dose A 2:1 ratio with morphine may also be used. See preparations outlined below.		HYDROMORPHONE 24 hour dose		FENTANYL TRANSDERMAL [#]	ALFENTANIL ^β 24 hour dose	BUPRENORPHINE TRANSDERMAL [#]
ORAL	IV/SC	ORAL	IV/SC	ORAL	IV/SC		IV/SC	
5mg	2.5mg	3.33mg	1.66mg	1mg	0.5mg	-	-	-
10mg	5mg	6.66mg	3.33mg	2mg	1mg	-	0.3mg	5 micrograms/hour*
14.4mg	7.2mg	9.6mg	4.8mg	2.88mg	1.44mg	6 micrograms/hour	0.5mg	-
20mg	10mg	13.33mg	6.66mg	4mg	2mg	-	0.7mg	10 micrograms/hour*
28.8mg	14.4mg	19.2mg	9.6mg	5.76mg	2.88mg	12 micrograms/hour	1mg	-
30mg	15mg	20mg	10mg	6mg	3mg	-	1.5mg	15 micrograms/hour*
50mg	25mg	33.33mg	16.66mg	10mg	5mg	-	2mg	25 micrograms/hour*
60mg	30mg	40mg	20mg	12mg	6mg	25 micrograms/hour	3.3mg	35 micrograms/hour*
100mg	50mg	66.66mg	33.33mg	20mg	10mg	-	4mg	52.5micrograms/hour*
120mg	60mg	80mg	40mg	24mg	12mg	50 micrograms/hour	5mg	70 micrograms/hour*
150mg	75mg	100mg	50mg	30mg	15mg	-	6mg	
180mg	90mg	120mg	60mg	36mg	18mg	75 micrograms/hour	8mg	
240mg	120mg	160mg	80mg	48mg	24mg	100 micrograms/hour		

^aNational and international guidelines also support the use of a 2:1 ratio when switching between morphine and oxycodone.

Oxycodone is available as immediate release capsules 5mg, 10mg and 20mg, liquid 1mg/ml or 10mg/ml and sustained release tablets 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg and 80mg. Oxycodone solution for injection is available in 10mg/ml and 50mg/ml strengths.

^β See 'The Use of Alfentanil in a Syringe Driver in Palliative Medicine' document available from the Palliative Meds Info webpages <http://www.olh.ie/7-departments/166-palliative-meds-info/>. Doses have been rounded to the nearest whole number or the nearest appropriate decimal point.

[#] Transdermal fentanyl and buprenorphine patches are prescribed in micrograms (mcg)/hour. Equivalent doses are based on the 24 hour dose of fentanyl or buprenorphine received from a patch. See product literature for further information.

* Based on buprenorphine to morphine ratio of 1:70-83.