



OPIOID CONVERSION GUIDE

These conversions are a guide only.
 Patients may vary in their response to different opioids. After changing opioid, close assessment should follow and the dose altered as necessary.

Equianalgesic doses of oral opioids

Oral opioid	Conversion factor (opioid dose x or ÷ by factor = morphine dose)	Practical equianalgesic dose
morphine		10 mg
hydromorphone	x 5	2 mg
oxycodone	x 1.5	5-7.5 mg*
codeine	÷ 8	75-90 mg*
tapentadol	÷ 3	50 mg*
tramadol	÷ 5	50 mg

* dose guided by strength of medication available

Methadone conversions are complicated and prescribing should be restricted to medical specialists with experience of methadone prescribing for pain management.

Subcutaneous route conversions

Opioid	Oral dose	Equianalgesic subcutaneous dose	Conversion factor (oral dose ÷ by factor = subcut dose)
morphine	30 mg	10 mg	÷ 3
hydromorphone	6 mg	2 mg	÷ 3

Transdermal preparation conversions

Opioid	Patch strength	Equianalgesic oral morphine dose
buprenorphine	5 microgram/hr	12 mg/24 hrs
fentanyl	12 microgram/hr	30-45 mg/24 hrs

Sublingual preparation conversions

Opioid	Dose	Equianalgesic oral morphine dose for pain
buprenorphine tablet	200 microgram	8-16 mg
fentanyl lozenge	200 microgram	no direct conversion initiate 200 microgram lozenge and titrate to effect