

## APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENT OPIOID DOSES

It may be necessary to change a patient from one opioid to another to achieve optimum analgesia with fewer side effects or if a route becomes compromised. The table below gives an approximate conversion for different opioids. On converting, it is good practice to change to the lowest appropriate dose and titrate as required using breakthrough medication. As an example, when converting a patient prescribed 100mg of modified release morphine (MST) twice a day to Hydromorphone, 24mg Hydromorphone is the equivalent daily dose. The patient would therefore be prescribed 12 mg Hydromorphone modified release twice daily with 3.9mg immediate release hydromorphone for breakthrough (1 sixth (1/6) of the total daily dose).

Route of administration	Oral			Transdermal
Drug	Morphine total daily dose	Hydromorphone total daily dose	Oxycodone total daily dose	Fentanyl patches
Equivalent Doses	10mg<=>	1.3mg<=>	5mg<=>	
	30mg<=>	4mg<=>	15mg<=>	
	60mg<=>	8mg<=>	30mg<=>	
	90mg<=>	12mg<=>	45mg<=>	25micrograms per hour <=>
	180mg<=>	24mg<=>	90mg<=>	50micrograms per hour <=>
	270mg<=>	36mg<=>	135mg<=>	75micrograms per hour <=>
	300mg<=>	40mg<=>	150mg<=>	75micrograms per hour <=>
	400mg<=>	52mg<=>	200mg<=>	100micrograms per hour <=>
	600mg<=>	80mg<=>	300mg<=>	150micrograms per hour <=>

## Opioid Formulations and Strengths

Preparations	Morphine (oral)	Hydromorphone (oral)	Oxycodone (oral)	Fentanyl Patches
Liquid	10mg/5ml oral solution 100mg/5ml concentrated oral solution		5mg/5ml oral solution 10mg/1ml concentrated oral solution	
Immediate Release	10mg, 20mg, 50mg tablets	1.3mg, 2.6mg capsules	5mg, 10mg, 20mg capsules	
Modified Release	12-hourly tablets: 5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 30mg, 60mg, 100mg, 200mg  12-hourly suspension (sachet of granules to mix with water): 20mg, 30mg, 60mg, 100mg, 200mg	2mg, 4mg, 8mg, 16mg, 24mg capsules	5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 60mg, 80mg, 120mg tablets	12, 25, 50, 75 and 100micrograms per hour patches (each patch lasts 72 hours)  Oral morphine 45mg daily is approximately equivalent to the fentanyl 12micrograms per hour patch.