

PALLIATIVE CARE OPIOID CONVERSION GUIDE

Please refer to HealthPathways or the Palliative Care Guidelines for information regarding the choice of opioid and indications for conversion. These conversions are a guide only and further advice should be sought if necessary.

Morphine oral	:	Morphine subcut
2	:	1
eg. Morphine oral 20mg	→	Morphine subcut 10mg

Note: If converting to a morphine subcut syringe-driver use half the total daily oral morphine dose over 24 hours

Morphine oral	:	Oxycodone oral
2	:	1
eg. Morphine oral 20mg	→	Oxycodone oral 10mg

Oxycodone oral	:	Oxycodone subcut
1.5 to 2	:	1
eg. Oxycodone oral 30mg	→	Oxycodone subcut 15-20mg

Note: The recommendation from the drug company is that the dose of oxycodone should be halved when converting from oral to subcut, but oxycodone is highly bio-available and the subcut dose in practice is more like two-thirds of the oral dose. *To calculate two-thirds, either divide by 1.5 or multiply by 0.6667*

Oxycodone oral	:	Morphine subcut
1.5	:	1
eg. Oxycodone oral 30mg	→	Morphine subcut 20mg

Note: If converting directly to subcut morphine the daily subcut morphine dose will be approximately two-thirds of the daily oral oxycodone dose. *To calculate two-thirds, either divide by 1.5 or multiply by 0.6667*

Morphine subcut	:	Oxycodone subcut
1	:	1
eg. Morphine 10mg subcut	→	Oxycodone 10mg subcut

Codeine oral	:	Morphine oral
10	:	1
eg. Codeine 240mg/24hr	→	Morphine 24mg/ 24hr

Note: For practical reasons, if the maximum daily dose of codeine (240mg) is ineffective the patient should be started on a regular daily dose of morphine 5mg q4hrly (10mg bd of morphine sulphate SR will be subtherapeutic)

Tramadol oral	:	Morphine oral
Evidence regarding conversion rate is conflicting.		
When converting from the maximal dose of Tramadol (400mg/ 24hr) it is recommended that patients are titrated with an initial dose of morphine elixir (or tablets) 10mg q4h regularly (or oxycodone IR 5-10mg q6h).		

Morphine oral (mg 24 hrs)	:	Fentanyl patch (mcg/hr)
<60	→	12.5
60-134	→	25
135-224	→	50
225-314	→	75
315-404	→	100
405-494	→	125
495-584	→	150
585-674	→	175
675-764	→	200
765-854	→	225
855-944	→	250

Note: When converting to fentanyl from other opioids or subcutaneous morphine please use the appropriate conversion guide above to obtain the 24 hour oral morphine dose.