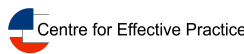


# OPIOID MANAGER SWITCHING OPIOIDS



## Morphine Equivalence Table

Opioid (Oral Dose)	Equivalent Doses (mg)	Conversion to MEQ
Morphine	30	1
Codeine	200	0.15
Oxycodone	20	1.5
Hydromorphone	6	5
Meperidine	300	0.1
Methodone & Tramadol	Dose Equivalents unreliable	
Transdermal fentanyl	60 – 134 mg morphine = 25 mcg/h 135 – 179 mg = 37 mcg/h 180 – 224 mg = 50 mcg/h 225 – 269 mg = 62 mcg/h 270 – 314 mg = 75 mcg/h 315 – 359 mg = 87 mcg/h 360 – 404 mg = 100 mcg/h	

Switching Opioids:	
If previous opioid dose was:	Then, SUGGESTED new opioid dose is:
High	50% or less of previous opioid (converted to morphine equivalent)
Moderate or low	60-75% of the previous opioid (converted to morphine equivalent)

- Opioid withdrawal symptoms are unpleasant, but not life-threatening. What is life-threatening with opioids is overdose. So remember, it is safer to underdose. Be careful during pregnancy, because severe acute withdrawal has been associated with premature labour and spontaneous abortion.
- After switching, it is important to warn the patient (and relative or friends) about signs of overdose: slurred or drawing speech, emotional lability, ataxia, "nodding off" during conversation or activity.
- Consider a 3-day "tolerance check:" contact the patient 3 days after starting the new opioid to check for signs of over-sedation and to ensure that pain relief is at least comparable to the pre-switch treatment.
- Patients at higher risk of overdose include: elderly, on benzodiazepines, renal or hepatic impairment, COPD, sleep apnea, sleep disorders and cognitive impaired.
- These doses are approximations due to inter-individual variation.

The form below is designed to guide the provider in switching from one opioid to another using the table of morphine equivalent suggested by the guideline. A copy of the completed form may be given to the patient and should be sent to the pharmacist.

## Switching Opioid Form

Patient name: ..... Today's date: ...../...../.....

Switching from ..... to .....

Start switching on Monday: ...../...../..... (mm/dd/yy)

Current opioid(s) regimen:

- Opioid name, dose and frequency: .....
- Opioid name, dose and frequency: .....
- Opioid name, dose and frequency: .....

Current total daily dose of opioid: ..... / day

Switching from current opioid to morphine equivalent:

Morphine to morphine: multiply by 1  
 Oxycodone to morphine: multiply by 1.5  
 Hydromorphone to morphine: multiply by 5

Current **morphine** equivalence dose: ..... / day

Proportion of the initial daily dose that will be switched to the new opioid: ( ) 50% ( ) 60% ( ) 75% ( ) other: .....

Total morphine equivalents that will be switched to the new regimen: ...../day

Switching from morphine equivalent to the new opioid:

Morphine equivalent to morphine: multiply by 1  
 Morphine equivalent to oxycodone: multiply by 0.667  
 Morphine equivalent to hydromorphone: multiply by 0.2

From morphine equivalent to the new opioid: The total daily dose of the new opioid is: ..... /day

New opioid regimen:

- Opioid name, dose and frequency: .....
- Opioid name, dose and frequency: .....
- Opioid name, dose and frequency: .....

Comments:

.....  
 .....

For questions, please call Dr. .... Phone number: (.....) ..... - .....