

OPIATE CONVERSION DOSES



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board

Note: these conversions are provided only as an approximate guide to equivalences and individual patient variability needs to be considered when switching from one opioid to another.

Gwent guidance on the use of strong opioids in non malignant pain is available at:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/Documents/814/OpioidInNonMalignantPain%2DGwentGuidance%5BFinal%5DJan2010.pdf>

DRUG NAME	DRUG DOSE	EQUIVALENT ORAL MORPHINE DOSE
CODEINE	30mg	4.5mg
DIHYROCODEINE	10mg	1mg
TRAMADOL	50mg	5mg to 10mg

BUTRANS patches (buprenorphine) – should only be used if patient intolerant of tramadol/codeine

DRUG	DRUG DOSE	APPROXIMATE CODEINE EQUIVALENCE	APPROXIMATE ORAL MORPHINE EQUIVALENCE
BuTrans 5	5micrograms/hour	60mg/24hours	10mg/24hours
BuTrans 10	10micrograms/hour	120mg/24hours	20mg/24hours
BuTrans 20	20micrograms/hour	240mg/24hours	40mg/24hours

Strong opiate conversion doses:-

DRUG NAME	DRUG DOSE	EQUIVALENT ORAL MORPHINE DOSE
Diamorphine (sub-cut)	10mg	30mg
Diconal	10mg	5mg
Meptazinol (Meptid)	200mg	4mg to 8mg
Oxycodone	10mg	20mg
Pethidine (oral)	50mg	5mg to 6.25mg
Pethidine (injected)	12.5mg	3mg

Patches conversion doses:-

DRUG NAME	DRUG DOSE	EQUIVALENT ORAL MORPHINE DOSE
Fentanyl 25 patch	25micrograms/hour	30mg to 134mg/24hours
Fentanyl 50 patch	50 micrograms/hour	135mg to 224mg/24hours
Fentanyl 75 patch	75 micrograms/hour	225mg to 314mg/24hours
Fentanyl 100 patch	100 micrograms/hour	315mg to 404mg/24hours
Transtec 52.5 patch (Buprenorphine)	52.5micrograms/hour	94mg to 145mg/24hours
Transtec 70 patch (Buprenorphine)	70 micrograms/hour	126mg to 193mg/24hours

NON FORMULARY except for Palliative Care

NON FORMULARY MEDICATION