

Opioid analgesia – Guide to drug conversions at Kirkwood Hospice

- Actual conversion from oral morphine 45mg/day = transdermal fentanyl 12microgram/hour, hence those doses for patch with an asterisk are not direct conversions but should be used as an overall guide
- All conversions are approximate, and conversions at higher doses should be discussed with a Consultant
- PRN medication should be prescribed at 1/6th of the total daily dose of regular medication
- Alfentanil, Methadone, Abstral and Tapentadol (Palexia) should only be used on specialist advice
- At higher doses of subcutaneous Morphine, injection volume may become an issue and subcutaneous Diamorphine may be a preferable alternative: please seek specialist advice for conversion

ORAL MORPHINE			ORAL OXYCODONE			SUBCUTANEOUS MORPHINE		SUBCUTANEOUS DIAMORPHINE		SUBCUTANEOUS OXYCODONE		TRANSDERMAL FENTANYL	SUBCUTANEOUS ALFENTANIL
4hr dose (mg)	12hr SR dose (mg)	24hr total dose (mg)	4hr dose (mg)	12hr SR dose (mg)	24hr total dose (mg)	4hr dose (mg)	24hr total dose (mg)	4hr dose (mg)	24hr total dose (mg)	4hr dose (mg)	24hr total dose (mg)	Patch Strength (microgram)	24hr total dose (mg)
2.5	10	20	1 - 1.5	5	10	1.5 - 2.5	10	1	7.5	1	5	-	-
5	15	30	2.5	10	20	1.5 - 2.5	15	1.5-2	10	1 - 1.5	7.5	-	1
10	30	60	5	15	30	5	30	2.5-5	20	2.5	15	12 mcg*	2
15	45	90	7.5 - 10	25	50	7.5	45	5	30	2.5 - 5	25	25 mcg	3
20	60	120	10	30	60	10	60	5-7.5	40	5	30	37 mcg*	4
30	90	180	15	45	90	15	90	10	60	7.5	45	50 mcg	6
40	120	240	20	60	120	20	120	10-15	80	10	60	75 mcg*	8
50	150	300	25	75	150	25	150	15-20	100	12.5	75	75 mcg*	10
60	180	360	30	90	180	30	180	20	120	15	90	100 mcg	12
70	210	420	35	100	200	35	210	20-25	140	17.5	100	125 mcg*	14
80	240	480	40	120	240	40	240	25-30	160	20	120	125 mcg*	16
90	270	540	45	135	270	45	270	30	180	20 - 25	135	150 mcg*	18
100	300	600	50	150	300	50	300	30-35	200	25	150	150 mcg*	20

Based on PCF 6 & Oxberry and Simpson (2005) Pharmacotherapy for cancer pain, BJACEPD