

**ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE, CHICHESTER,  
CLINICAL GUIDELINE No 23**

**OPIOID CONVERSION**

Original Mar 2008; revised Nov 2011; Feb 12; Aug 2017; **this revision Feb 2018**; next revision Feb 2020

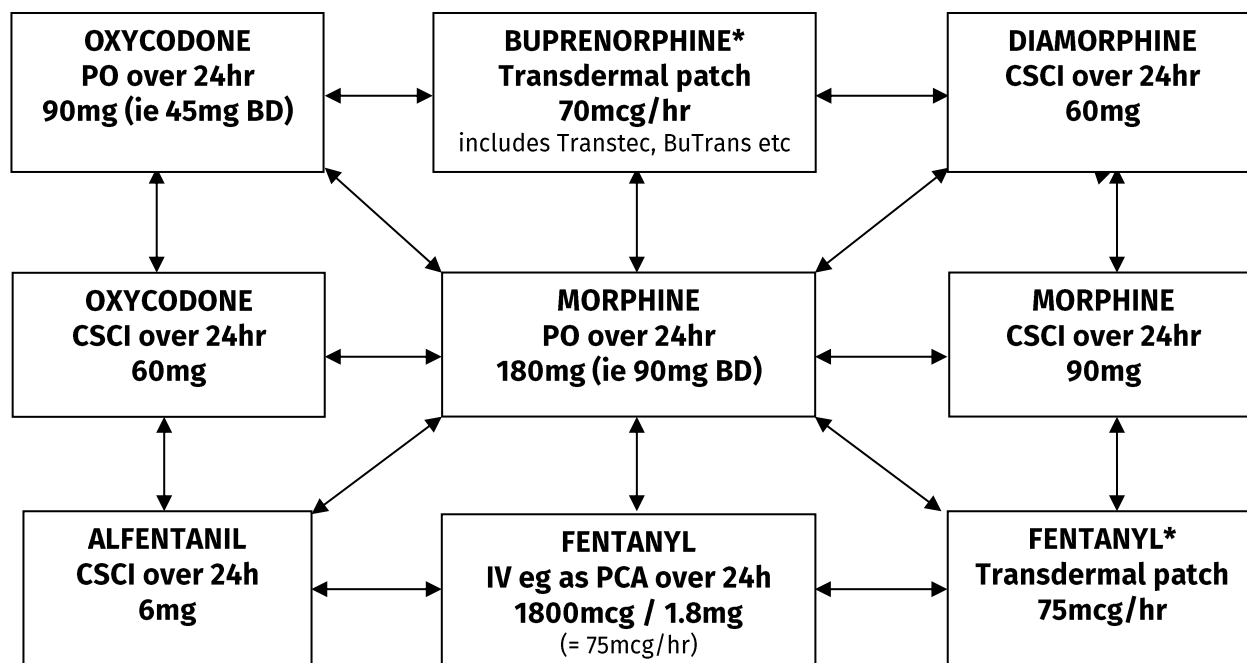
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Circulation: consultants, ST2 folder, lead nurse in-patients, ward sister, deputy ward sister, Director of Nursing, lead CNS, CNS team, Hospice at Home, Palliative Days Services, pharmacist, SRH pall care team

**OPIOID CONVERSION RATIOS**

(Original guideline adapted from the All Wales Clinical Guidelines Group)

**NB All conversions are approximate and should be titrated for individual patients.**



\*Converting **from** transdermal patches, consider using half the recommended dose for the first 24hrs after removing the patch to prevent overdose whilst the skin reservoir depletes.

**Parenteral fentanyl**

- Fentanyl 100mcg IV is approximately equivalent to morphine 5mg SC
- TD fentanyl mcg/h x 24 ≈ PCA IV fentanyl dose over 24h ie 75 x 24 = 1800

**Reference sources include:**

- Palliative Care Formulary 6<sup>th</sup> edition (PCF6) 2017
- Palliative Adult Network Guidelines – PANG (“Blue Book”) 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016 pp 47-50

PANG also includes guidance on tramadol, tapentadol, codeine and dihydrocodeine

**Parenteral oxycodone**

References sources give different conversion ratios for PO:SC oxycodone including:

PCF 1.5:1 or 2:1  
PANG 2:1  
SWH uses 1.5:1

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**OPIOID CONVERSION TABLE**

NB This is to be used as a guide rather than a set of definitive equivalences.  
Some of these doses have by necessity been rounded up or down to fit in with the preparations available.

Caution with higher doses: discuss with palliative medicine consultant or CNS

Oral morphine			Subcutaneous morphine		Subcutaneous diamorphine		Oral oxycodone			Subcutaneous oxycodone		Transdermal fentanyl	Subcutaneous alfentanil	
4 hourly dose (mg)	12 hourly SR dose (mg)	24 hourly total dose (mg)	4 hourly dose (mg)	24 hourly total dose (mg)	4 hourly dose (mg)	24 hourly total dose (mg)	4 hourly dose (mg)	12 hourly SR dose (mg)	24 hourly total dose (mg)	4 hourly dose (mg)	24 hourly total dose (mg)	Patch strength (micrograms per hour)	4 hourly dose (mg)	24 hourly total dose (mg)
5	15	30	2.5	15	1.25	10	2.5	7.5	15	1.25	10	12	0.125	1
10	30	60	5	30	2.5	20	5	15	30	2.5	20	25	0.25	1.5
15	45	90	7.5	45	5	30	7.5	25	50	5	30	37	0.5	3
20	60	120	10	60	7.5	40	10	30	60	7.5	40	50	0.75	4
30	90	180	15	90	10	60	15	45	90	10	60	75	1	6
40	120	240	20	120	12.5	80	20	60	120	12.5	80	100	1.25	8
50	150	300	25	150	15	100	25	75	150	15	100	125	1.5	10
60	180	360	30	180	20	120	30	90	180	20	120	150	2	12
70	210	420	35	210	25	140	35	105	210	25 *	140	175	2.5	14
80	240	480	40	240	30	160	40	120	240	30 *	160	200	2.5	16

\* for oxycodone injection 25mg and 30mg use 50mg/mL ampoule

For higher doses of alfentanil use 5mg/mL ampoule