

# 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
<b>Oxycodone</b>	<b>10mg</b>	<b>20mg</b>
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