



## **Pain Management Quick Tips**

### **Opioid conversion tips**

#### **Calculating the rescue dose**

1. Calculate 10% of the provided total daily opioid dose as an immediate-release formulation.

#### **Opioid titration**

1. Calculate the total oral 24-hour opioid taken by adding the amount of the sustained-release and immediate-release rescue doses.
2. Divide total daily dose into appropriate intermittent doses based upon the specific opioid dosing intervals found in the "[Dosing and Conversion Chart for Opioid Analgesics](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)." [[http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim\\_ch73\\_wed01.pdf](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)]

#### **Changing to another oral opioid**

1. Calculate the total daily dose of current opioid (add the long-acting and rescue doses).
2. Use the "[Dosing and Conversion Chart for Opioid Analgesics](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)." [[http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim\\_ch73\\_wed01.pdf](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)] to calculate the equivalent total daily oral dose of the alternative opioid.
3. Divide total daily dose of the alternative opioid into appropriate intermittent doses based upon the specific opioid dosing intervals found in the "Dosing and Conversion Chart for Opioid Analgesics."

#### **Changing an oral opioid to its IV/SQ route**

1. Calculate the total amount of oral opioid taken per 24 hours (add long-acting and rescue doses).
2. Use the "[Dosing and Conversion Chart for Opioid Analgesics](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)." [[http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim\\_ch73\\_wed01.pdf](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)] to calculate the equivalent total daily parenteral dose.
3. Divide the dose by 24 to get the hourly drip rate.

### **Changing an oral or IV opioid to transdermal fentanyl**

1. Calculate the total opioid dose.
2. Use the "[Dosing and Conversion Chart for Opioid Analgesics](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)." [[http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim\\_ch73\\_wed01.pdf](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)] to calculate the equivalent total daily morphine dose.
3. Use the "[Morphine to Fentanyl Equivalents](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed02.pdf)" [[http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim\\_ch73\\_wed02.pdf](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed02.pdf)] chart to determine the equianalgesic dose of transdermal fentanyl.

### **Changing an opioid agent and route (oral to IV)**

1. Calculate the total daily dose of the original opioid (add long-acting and rescue doses).
2. Use the "[Dosing and Conversion Chart for Opioid Analgesics](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)." [[http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim\\_ch73\\_wed01.pdf](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)] to convert from an oral to IV dose.
3. Use the "[Dosing and Conversion Chart for Opioid Analgesics](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)." [[http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim\\_ch73\\_wed01.pdf](http://www.acponline.org/essentials/cdim_ch73_wed01.pdf)] to convert original opioid to an alternative, equivalent IV dose.
4. Adjust the dose for incomplete cross tolerance by reducing dose by 25%-50%.
5. Divide adjusted dose by 24 to obtain hourly opioid infusion rate.